

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

October 18, 2026



WORLD MISSION SUNDAY

“I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth.”

Acts 13:47



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 stjparish@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



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.

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, Joanne Kitsock, Carol Lasco, Michael Schuettler, Steve Kurtek.*

"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."

Mass Intentions

Saturday, October 17

5:00 p.m. Michael Klembara
(Anita Klembara)

Sunday, October 18

8:15 a.m. R.J. Post
(Sandi, Sheri, RJ Post)

Sunday, October 18

10:30 a.m. Carl & Barbara Weiss
(Weis Children)

Monday, October 19

6:30 p.m. Margaret 'Maggie' Glunz

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

9:00 a.m. Tony Kochol
(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Thursday, October 22

9:00 a.m. Rita Gemmell
(Bill & Kim Kimber)

Friday, October 23

9:00 a.m. William Schmitt
(Shawn & Karen Schmitt)

Saturday, October 24

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

Sunday, October 25

8:15 a.m. Jack & Dot Ryan
(John & Chris Eagan)

Sunday, October 25

10:30 a.m. Joan Grapsy
(Catholic Women's Union)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our series on the seven sacraments, last week we discussed how Anointing of the Sick is celebrated. As we conclude our look at this sacrament, let me re-emphasize a few things.

1. Please do not just think of this sacrament as "Last Rites." It is not only for the dying but for any serious or chronic illness, old age, and for those who will have surgery.
2. Please do not wait until a loved one is actively dying to request Anointing. If possible, request the sacrament sooner so as to avoid an emergency situation.
3. Please keep in mind that sacraments are encounters with the risen Christ during our earthly lives. If someone has already died, he or she cannot receive Anointing. I mention this because people often call for a priest right *after* a loved one has died, expecting him to give the "Last Rites." If someone has already died, a priest (deacon, or really anyone) can come and say prayers for the deceased and for the comfort of the family, but as soon as the person crosses into eternal life, the time for receiving sacraments is over.

On that note, this seems like a good time to explain some things about Catholic funerals before we move on to the other sacraments. We'll look at funerals next week.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture: is offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 pm, October 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 Benediction. This event is open to all, and we welcome children and families. Come and be renewed!

Sunday, October 25th at 6:00 pm
in the main Church.

Next Week's Readings

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(October 24/25)

Reading I: Exodus 22:20-26

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 1:5c-10

Gospel: Matthew 22:34-40

**"I have made you a light to the Gentiles,
that you may be an instrument of salvation
to the ends of the earth."**

Acts 13:47

Upcoming Events

October

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	6:00 p.m.	Adoration Service	Church
29	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.

November

1	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
1	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.
8	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
8	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
8	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
8	11:30 am-7 pm	Eucharistic Day	Church & L.H.
15	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
17	6:30 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
18	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women's Union Mtg	L.H.
21	after Mass	Wine & Cheese Social.....	L.H.
22	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
22	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School	L.H.
22	10:30 a.m.	Children's Liturgy.....	Chapel
22	after Masses	Coffee & Donuts	L.H.

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

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

Eucharistic Day

On **Sunday, November 8th** the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed at the end of the 10:30 Mass. We invite you to spend some time with our Lord in prayer on Sunday afternoon. We will celebrate Vespers and Benediction at 3:00 p.m. More details to come.

Catholic Women's Union— Meeting

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, October 21st at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Our Harvest Auction will be featured this month. Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us!

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

Weekly Collection

Oct. 10/11 \$5,148.20
Improv. & Repairs \$1,288.00

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

All Candles
 IMO William Schmitt
 by Shawn & Karen Schmitt

BVM

St. Joseph

Sanctuary

Guardian Angels

Liturgical Min. Schedule

30th Sunday in Ordinary Time

October 24— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Frank Murphy

EM: John Crane, Dan Murphy

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

October 25 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

EM: John Corbacio

Michael Ambrose

Servers: Finley McNamara

Gabriel Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes

October 25 —10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

EM: Ann Blankenhorn

Justina Majestic

Servers: Callie & Cole Felty

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Sacristan: Connor Felty

All Souls Day Envelopes

Please drop your All Souls Day envelope in the collection as soon as possible so your intentions can be placed on the altar for All Souls Day. Additional envelopes for your intentions can be found at the church exits.

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 -- Sponsors -- 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 19, 26 from 4:30 to 5:30 p.m.

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

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

Pecans: St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be selling pecans again this year at the Christmas Bazaar.

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: 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. on October 19, 20;

12 noon to 2 p.m. on October 18;

8 a.m. to 11 p.m. on October 21

Thank you in advance for your support!



Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

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 (adlumenchristi.org)

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

SAINT TERESA OF JESUS (1515-1582) October 15 - Feast Day

Let nothing disturb you; let nothing frighten you. Gifted with a passionate spirit, young Teresa dreamed of converting Muslims and becoming a martyr. *All things are passing; God never changes.* But her mother's death when Teresa was fourteen inspired lifelong devotion to Our Lady, and Teresa entered the Carmelites, Mary's order, despite her father's objections and her own fragile health. *Patience gains everything.* Initially, she enjoyed her lax convent's sociability and "busyness," but mystical prayer and John of the Cross' collaboration inspired her to reform the Carmelites. *Whoever has God, lacks nothing.* When her ideals encountered resistance and brought suffering, she maintained her peace—and humor. Discovered devouring leftovers, she told her mildly scandalized nuns, "When I fast, I fast! When I eat, I eat!" To nuns demanding less work and more prayer in the convent schedule, she retorted: "What we really need around here are fewer starry eyes and more strong arms!" *God alone is enough!* The italicized sentences here are her "Breviary Bookmark," the simple, profound prayer of Teresa, the first woman Doctor of the Church.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning Is Hiring!

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning is seeking a dedicated and compassionate Principal to lead our school community. This is an opportunity to build on a strong foundation and continue the mission of providing quality education and support to students and adults with special needs.

If you or someone you know may be a good fit for this important role, please help us spread the word. For more information about the Principal position, application instructions, and other current employment opportunities at SJC, please visit <https://stjosephctr.com/employment-opportunities/>

CYO Basketball Sign-ups

CYO Basketball is back in Schuylkill County! Any girl or boy in grades 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 or 8 that attends a Diocesan Elementary School or is a member of An Allentown Schuylkill County Parish is eligible to participate. Use the link below to register for the season. <https://forms.gle/FdYWJim8rqkEVq3YA>.

Neighboring Events ...

Basket Raffle sponsored by St. John XXIII Church, 307 Pine St. in Tamaqua on Saturday, October 17th & Sunday, October 18th. Large variety of regular raffle prizes & gift cards; Bake Sale and 50/50 drawing. Browse & Bid from 4:30 to 7:30 p.m. on Saturday and 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Sunday. Prizes called Sunday beginning at 1 p.m. For more info call 570-952-1413.

Big Band Concert at St. John XXIII Parish, 307 Pine St. in Tamaqua on Sunday, November 1st from 3 to 5 p.m. Featuring M&J Big Band of Pottsville. Admission \$10 per person. General seating, Beverages & Food available for purchase via the La Dolce Casa Food Truck. Concert is sponsored by the Boyle, Odorizzi & Sweeney Families. For more information please contact Cindy at 570-952-4396.

Fall Nut Roll Sale sponsored by Assumption BVM School in Pottsville. Flavors: nut, poppy, apricot, lekvar, seedless raspberry, pumpkin cheese ... \$20.00 each ... just in time for Thanksgiving or freeze them for later! Pick up is Tuesday, November 17th from 5:00 to 6:00 p.m. at St. Patrick's Parish Center on Mahantongo St. For more information, please call 570-622-0106 or see an Assumption BVM Family.

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, please call Debbie at 570-622-1801 ext. 3.

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.

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.

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!

Families Matter**For Those serving in the Military.**

We pay for all our loved ones serving our country in the military. We ask that the Lord bless them in their efforts to promote peace and justice in the world. Bring them safely home to their families.

**REPAY TO CAESAR
WHAT BELONGS TO CAESAR
AND TO GOD
WHAT BELONGS TO GOD.
MATTHEW 22:21**



October 18, 2026

Twenty-ninth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 45:1, 4-6 | 1 Thes 1:1-5b | Mt 22:15-21

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

A mentor once told me that there is no sweeter sound than that of one's own name. It communicates that one is seen, known, and cared for. We read in Isaiah today that God has chosen Cyrus and has called him by name. In the Letter to the Thessalonians, Paul and his followers "give thanks to God always" for all in the community, knowing that each brother and sister is "loved by God" and "chosen." And although these words are written about Cyrus and the Thessalonians, we trust that God speaks these words to us as well. We have each been chosen. Our Father calls each of us by name. It is sometimes difficult to believe that God desires *me* and chooses *me* individually. It is a love that I often fail to reciprocate, despite my desire to do so. But that does not diminish the love God has for me. I am not lost in the crowd of history and humanity. Each of us was created with love and rejoiced over by our heavenly Father.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

When Jesus is asked in today's Gospel about the taxes due to Caesar, he does not falter with his response. We must live the truth of our faith in the world, but ultimately, what the world asks of us is not the same as what our Creator desires. Taxes are paid out of obligation, but God asks for our love. In using the talents God has given us in caring for our brothers and sisters, we acknowledge the fullness of the majesty and wonder of our Creator. We do not have to isolate ourselves from this world, but we must remember that we were not created for this world. We have already been chosen and claimed by our loving Father. And it is to him that we offer the gift of our heart, which is infinitely more valuable than coins.

REFLECT

In the Gospel of Matthew, Christ also says, "For where your treasure is, there also will your heart be." (6:21) In light of today's Gospel, we must also consider whether our participation in society in any way prevents us from offering ourselves totally to God. Spend some time reflecting on what it is that you truly treasure. Do you reserve the offering of your heart for God? Or are you giving to the world what should be reserved for God?