

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

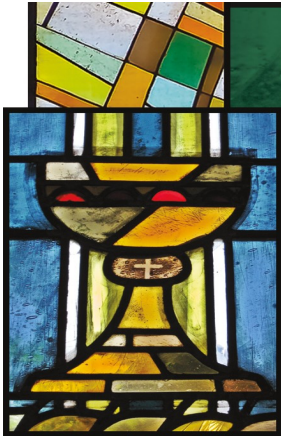
10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • www.saintjohnpottsville.org

November 3, 2024

31ST SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

"You shall love the Lord your God
with all your heart, with all your soul,
with all your mind, and with all your strength."

Mk 12:30



Mass Intentions

All Souls Day

Saturday, November 2

5:00 p.m. Memorial Mass

Sunday, November 3

8:15 a.m. Fran & Dorothy Purcell
(Deborah & Mark Purcell)

Sunday, November 3

10:30 a.m. John Wollyung
(Joseph & Suzanne Wollyung)

Monday, November 4

6:30 p.m. William & Marie Flynn

Tuesday, November 5

9:00 a.m. Bob Porter
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Wednesday, November 6

9:00 a.m. Rita Lotz
(Catholic Women's Union)

Thursday, November 7

9:00 a.m. Paul Filiac
(John & Patty O'Neill)

Friday, November 8

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

Saturday, November 9

5:00 p.m. Living & Deceased of
St. Bernard's Society

Sunday, November 10

8:15 a.m. Anthony s. Gaburick
(Donna Agnew)

Sunday, November 10

10:30 a.m. Richard Lowe
(Albert & Linda Baldinger)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our tour of the Bible, we have been looking at the Old Testament prophets. So far we've had four prophets from the 8th century BC: Amos, Hosea, Micah, and Isaiah. We will return to Isaiah later to look at the parts of the book that reflect later time periods.

Now we come to three prophets from the 7th century BC: Zephaniah, Nahum, and Habakkuk. All three are minor prophets. By this point in time, the Northern Kingdom of Israel no longer exists, having been conquered by Assyria around 721 BC. From this point forward, all of the prophets are active in Judah, in the south. Judah becomes a vassal state of the Assyrian Empire which, in the 600's BC, will be taken over by Babylon.

Zephaniah condemns Judah's idolatry and infidelity to the covenant with God. He warns of coming destruction, including the destruction of Jerusalem. At the time this was an outlandish message. Zephaniah speaks of the "Day of the Lord." The Day of the Lord was understood to be something like judgment day. Traditionally, the people believed the Day of the Lord would be a time when Israel's enemies would be defeated and Israel would be exalted. But the prophet warns that the Day of the Lord will be darkness and gloom for those who are unfaithful to God, regardless of their membership in the Chosen People.

Zephaniah ends on a note of hope. See Zephaniah 3:14-18, an oracle addressed to "Daughter Zion," the faithful remnant of God's People.

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.



Happy Birthday!

Congratulations to parishioner, **Lorraine 'Babe' Murphy**, who is celebrating her **100th Birthday**. You have reached a century of wisdom and a lifetime of grace and we wish you happiness and countless blessings.
Happy Birthday from St. John's Parish Family!

Next Week's Readings

31st Sunday in Ordinary Time
(November 9/10)

Reading I: Deuteronomy 6:2-6

Reading II: Hebrews 7:23-28

Gospel: Mark 12:28b-34

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

Upcoming Events

November

3	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
3	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
7	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
9	2:00 p.m.	Blessing Blankets	L.H.
10	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
14	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study	L.H.
14	7:30 p.m.	Summer Festival Planning Mtg.....	L.H.
16/17		Christmas Bazaar	R.B.
17	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	L.H.
17	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
20	7:00 p.m.	Catholic Women’s Union Mtg	L.H.
28	8:00 a.m.	Thanksgiving Day Mass.....	Church

December

1	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
1	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
7	11:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation	Church
7	7:00 p.m.	Schuykill Choral Society Concert.....	Church

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

October 26/27.....\$4,841.75

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

Candles

BVM

1. IMO John J. Carroll Sr. by Family
2. IMO John & Catherine Becker by Fred & Hilda Maley

St. Joseph

1. IMO Jim Wollyung by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Janet Bartholomew Whitaker & Harold J. Bartholomew by Frances Lorenz

Sanctuary

IMO Oselus & Shattas Family by Martin & Linda Smith

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Dave Penkunas by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. IMO Walter & Helen Grossman by Fred & Hilda Maley
3. IMO Rick Pugh by Fred & Hilda Maley
4. IMO Ed Adams by Fred & Hilda Maley

Liturgical Min. Schedule

32nd Sunday in Ordinary Time

November 9 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Bob Wollyung
Joe Palmieri

Server: Cooper & Cole Felty

Cantor: Joanne Matina

November 10 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert
Sharon Snyder

Servers/Sacristan: Connor Felty

Cantor: Amy Joyce

November 10— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
John Crane

Servers: Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Dave Derbes

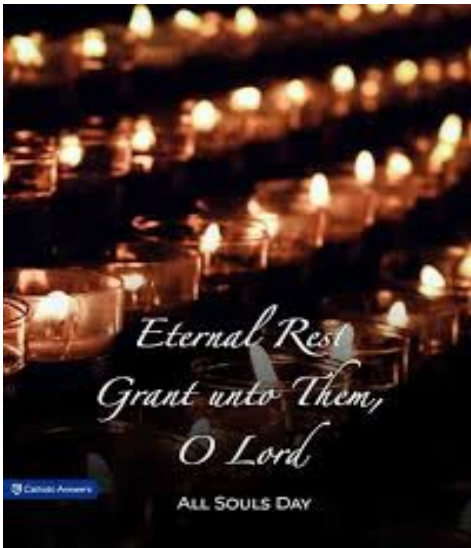
SCRIPTURE STUDY

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

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.

Remembering Our Faithful Departed

Please remember in your prayers those who during the past year have completed their pilgrimage of faith on earth.



- Charles Bowers*
- James Cunningham Jr.*
- James Cunningham Sr.*
- Anthony S. Gaburick*
- Mark Griffin*
- Timothy Haley*
- Gerald Hudock*
- Lawrence Kelly*
- Robert Kline*
- William Lecher Jr.*
- Rita Lotz*
- Susan Mengle*
- Robert Porter Jr.*
- Xenia Pristas*
- Gail Vesay*

LITURGICAL SCHEDULE

All those involved in ministries at the altar—Readers, Servers, Eucharistic Ministers — please email the Rectory to let us know your schedule for December 2024 and January 2025. Please do so **by November 11th**. Thank you.

PARISH OUTREACH

Did you know a dedicated small group of volunteers has been sending greetings cards to parishioners as part of our Outreach Program? These include sympathy cards, get well wishes, birthday cards (to those 90 and over), and welcome notes to our new parishioners. This group of volunteers welcomes anyone who would like to help, as this has been a meaningful ministry. We would like to expand this to other parishioners who would benefit from our St. John's hospitality. Please call the rectory for more information.

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



Summer Festival—Pot Luck Stand

We are in search of a person, people, or family to take over our Pot Luck Stand for the Summer Festival. Maureen and Kelly Derbes will offer guidance and suggestions to make things run smoother. It is an exciting stand with great prizes! We recently utilized an Amazon gift registry that helped immensely with donations and hope to do so again next year, we will assist with that as well. Other tasks are: acquiring gift cards, numbering and organizing the prizes, and help running the stand. All in which the committee will be happy to assist and help. We would like to thank Maureen, Kelly and the Derbes family for all the years they dedicated to the stand. We appreciate all your hard work and continued dedication! This was one of our best years yet at the Potluck stand. It is a huge fundraiser and a big necessity for the festival. Please consider helping or possibly starting your own festival tradition with our Potluck stand! Please call the rectory or Shanna Deibert (570) 617-4769 for more information or please join us at our next meeting **11/14 at 7:30 pm in Longinus Hall**.

Assumption BVM School News ...

Gift Card Calendar Raffle will take place for the month of December. This fundraiser will directly benefit the school and its students. Calendars are \$10.00 each and are good for all 31 drawings. Calendars can be purchased from any ABVM family or the school (570-622-0106) or email: eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net). Thank you for your help in making our Calendar Raffle a success! Erin Schoepflin, Principal

Blessing Blankets

St John's Service Project for the Homeless in Schuylkill County. You are invited to make 'Blessing Blankets' for the homeless in our county on **November 9th from 2- 4:30 p.m. in Longinus Hall**. The blankets will be part of the Servants to All ministry's outreach program to supply the homeless in our city and county with warm blankets, food and information about local resources. Sewing skills are not needed, just an open heart to help the poor in our county. A free will offering will be accepted to help defray the cost of the material. A Sign-up sheet will be in the back of church that will help us to be better prepared for that day. If you have sharp sturdy material scissors to cut the fleece, their use would be appreciated. Contact the rectory if you have any questions 570 622-5470 or Gerry Schwartz 570 449-6212.

Knights of Columbus—Turkey Dinner

The Schuylkill County Knights of Columbus Councils will deliver a Turkey Dinner complete with Turkey, Filling, Yams, Gravy, Vegetable, and Dessert to all residents of Schuylkill County who are in need of a meal for this Thanksgiving Day (November 28). If you or person you know is in need of a meal, please call either 570-773-0627 or 570-516-9514 or 570-628-3333 and leave your name and phone number and we will return your call. You can also contact us at KofC431@yahoo.com. The only requirement for the meal is that the person be home. Closing date to order is November 22 at 5 p.m. in order for us to order the required items for the meal. Thank You. **Help Needed:** anyone who can help with delivery is asked to come to St. Patrick's Social Hall in Pottsville on Thanksgiving Day by 8 a.m. You can sign up to deliver meals to an area you know or any area. We usually finish approximately 1 p.m. Thank you in advance for your help.



Thank You, LORD!

Neighboring Events

Spaghetti Dinner ... sponsored by St. Patrick's Church on Sunday, November 3rd from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out) at Parish Center, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville. Cost \$11.00 includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase. Eat-In or Take-Out.

ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST R.C. CHURCH
RUSSELL BUILDING
9TH & SCHUYLKILL AVE., POTTSVILLE

SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH - 11AM TO 7PM

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 17TH - 9AM TO 2PM

THEMED BASKETS
SPECIALS
CRAFTS



BARGAIN TABLE
HOMEMADE FOOD
BAKED GOODS

ALL FOOD ITEMS TAKE OUT ONLY

Donated Baskets & Sponsors & Crafts

- Afghan - Carol Rehnert
- Art — Mary Beth Harvey
- Ashley Cooper Bedding - Barb & Al Munster
- Baking - Chris Black
- Baking Supplies - Parishioners
- Beer & Snacks - Missy Scheetz
- Bicycle - Mary Bound
- Cheers - Parishioners
- Christmas - Joanne & Don Doyne
- Christmas Gnome - Mary Bound
- Cookies & Milk - Parishioners
- Crafts - Sue Jochems
- Doll House - Carol & Phil Lasco
- Dooney & Bourke Purse - Joyce & John Gerace
- Estate Planning - Lieberman & Tamulon Law
- Everything Red - Parishioners
- Game Night - Pat & Bill Pugh
- Boscov's/Cracker Barrel - ane & Tara DeStefano
- Gingerbread Mr. & Mrs. - Ellen & J. Robert Zane
- Hair Care - Rosann Sitkus
- Hair Care - Shanna Deibert
- Harvest Blessings - Lucilla Kochol
- Holiday Cheer - Pat & Phil Markovich
- Holiday Décor - Donna & Jim Pugh
- Holiday Mix - Parishioners
- Hope Hill Lavendar - Sue & RikJochems
- Just Add Ice Cream - Carol & Phil Lasco
- Kitchen Gadgets - Parishioners



Donated Baskets & Sponsors & Crafts

- Ladies - Parishioners
- Lottery—Janet & Michael Dzurarin
- Lottery Frame - Marie & Joe Ryan
- Lowe's \$75 Gift Card - Linda & Martin Smith
- Nativity BVM High School
- Penn State - Hermine & Dan Murphy
- Pizza Air Fryer Over - Pat Scheetz
- Roaster Oven - Joanne & Don Doyne
- Shopper's Delight - Pat Kutch
- Scratch, Snack, Sip - Kathy & Carl Hughes
- Snowmen - Natalie Setlock
- 31 Purse/\$100 - Debbie & Paul Herb
- Various Crafts & Wreaths - Mary Bound
- Wine - Larry Steficek
- Wine - Luis & Virginia Visot's
- Wine/Gift Card - Nora Chiplonia & Chris Zanis
- Wine & Lottery - Lois & Jack Dalton
- Wine/Snack - Joan Bowers
- Wine & Supplies - Parishioners
- Winter Spirits - Eleanor & Joe Orzechowski

Sponsors

- \$ 50.00 John B. Lieberman
- \$ 50.00 Dianne Stoudt
- \$ 50.00 Barbara Wollyung
- \$ 50.00 Ellen & J. Robert Zane
- \$100.00 Eric & Jennifer Lieberman
- \$100.00 Joe & Sherri Souchak
- \$150.00 Lieberman & Tamulon Law

“Whoever
loves me
will keep
my word,
says the
Lord.”

(JN. 14:23)

November 3, 2024

Thirty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Dt 6:2-6 | Heb 7:23-28 | Mk 12:28b-34

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

It is not surprising that we hear both Moses and Jesus speak the same words in today's Scripture. After all, Truth and Good News bear repeating! The Lord our God is Lord alone! “You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, with all your soul, with all your mind, and with all your strength.” In these words, Moses is instructing the people to fear the Lord and keep all his commandments and in turn God would give them “a land flowing with milk and honey” (Canaan). He is telling them the way to live. When Jesus repeats these words around 1,400 years later, the reason and message are the same, but he also adds to them: “love your neighbor as yourself.” The two commandments are inseparable. He tells us the *way* to live, and *how* to live. It's not enough to *know* what God asks of us, we must *do* what God asks of us: love him and one another. When God is the source and reason for all our thoughts and actions, we too will not be “far from the kingdom of God.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How do we put God first in our lives, ensuring he is that source and reason? When *he is everything*? Not a short order, right? He is everything when our heart, soul, mind, and strength are united with his - when Jesus is the lens through which we see the world. The psalm today reveals that it is the Lord, himself, who is our strength. When we surrender to Jesus, he gives us the strength to love him with everything within us. And when we truly love him, we cannot help acting on that love in how we care for and love our neighbor. How will we know he is first in our lives? Jesus' words in today's Scripture tell us how: by accepting God's love for us, by loving him back, his love will overflow to those around us. Think of those whom your life touches daily: your colleagues at work, the barista at the café, those who hit the gym the same time as you and yes, those who live right next door - your neighbors. In your prayers, ask Jesus, “how can I love and serve them better?”

SERVE This week, find a particular and concrete way to love someone who needs it, or who lacks what you have: be a listening ear for someone who has no one to talk to; help a neighbor with physical house or yard work; buy groceries for that person who just lost their job. The opportunities are endless, if we just look for them.

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

A PRAYER FOR OUR COUNTRY

O Most Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of Mercy, at this most critical time, we entrust the United States of America to your loving care.

Most Holy Mother, we beg you to reclaim this land for the glory of your Son. Overwhelmed with the burden of the sins of our nations, we cry to you from the depths of our hearts and seek refuge in your motherly protection.

Look down with mercy upon us and touch the hearts of our people. Open our minds to the great worth of human life and to the responsibilities that accompany human freedom.

O Merciful Mother, give us the courage to reject the culture of death and the strength to build a new Culture of Life. Amen.

Mary Immaculate, Patroness of the United States
Pray for Us.



Almighty God, Lord of Life and King of all Nations, we beg you to look kindly upon our country and help us to wisely choose our new leaders. Inform our consciences and enlighten our judgement, that we may elect those who will mercifully uphold justice and strive to protect the least among us. Help us to discern which candidates will uphold both the letter and spirit of the law. May our nation once again respect religious freedom, authentic marriage, the importance of family and the value of every human life — from conception to natural death. Heal the divisions which wound our unity and help us to overlook political tensions that keep us from becoming a united force for good. May our great land, built on both personal responsibility and charity towards the less fortunate, always balance prosperity with care for the elderly, the poor, the sick and the abandoned. May we elect honest and trustworthy candidates who will always uphold the common good and protect our God-given rights. In concert with the great founders of our nation, may we confidently proclaim, "In God we trust". Amen.