

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 1, 2024

Hope



Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, November 30

5:00 p.m. Carl & Ada Hahner
(Children, Dorothy, Butch,
Lois, Carolyn, Bob)

Sunday, December 1

8:15 a.m. Gail Vesay
(Bob Garland & Jan Kurtek)

Sunday, December 1

10:30 a.m. James Pugh Jr.
(Rosie, Franny & Mim)

Monday, December 2

6:30 p.m. Joseph Welsh
(Justin Wartella)

Tuesday, December 3

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

Wednesday, December 4

9:00 a.m. Anthony S. Gaburick
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

Thursday, December 5

9:00 a.m. Gerald Hudock
(Russell & Susan Zimmerman)

Friday, December 6

9:00 a.m. Dr. William & Ellen Schlitzer
(Ed & Mary Hauck)

Saturday, December 7

5:00 p.m. Louise Delaney
(Scott Williams)

Sunday, December 8

8:15 a.m. Michael & Anna Fedock
(Donna & Jim Pugh)

Sunday, December 8

10:30 a.m. Dec. of John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(Lieberman Family)

Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent

(December 7/8)

Reading I: Baruch 5:1-9

Reading II: Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

Gospel: Luke 3:1-6

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We have been looking at the Old Testament prophets in roughly chronological order. The last couple weeks we came to the books of Jeremiah, Lamentations, and Baruch. These books reflect the time when Babylon conquered Jerusalem and exiled many of the people from the Promised Land. This was a cataclysmic event in Old Testament history.

The prophet Ezekiel, one of the four major prophets, lived during the Babylonian Exile. The prophet himself was in one of the first groups to be deported to Babylon, where he prophesied in the final years leading up to the fall of Jerusalem. Like Jeremiah, he calls out God's people for their flagrant infidelity to the covenant and warns of the destruction to come if they do not change. After Babylon conquers Jerusalem, Ezekiel's prophecy is characterized by oracles of hope for salvation. God will restore His people.

Ezekiel is unique in that much of his prophecy comes not just in words but in the form of strange visions and symbolic actions that God asks him to perform. For example, God tells Ezekiel to pack his bags and dig through the city wall to foreshadow the people going into exile.

There are many striking passages in Ezekiel. See, for example, chapter 36, a foreshadowing of Baptism, and chapter 37 for a dramatic vision of the future resurrection of God's people. The book ends with a vision of a restored Temple, which is significant in light of the destruction of the Temple by the Babylonians.

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.



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 • Doug Broughton
• *Angie (Pfeil) Hamm*

Family Matters: Advent Season. Do you have a favorite custom for the Advent Season? Have you considered starting a new tradition? Plan on using this activity as a way for your family to grow closer to Jesus in this time of preparation and waiting.

Upcoming Events

December

1	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Mtg	L.H.
1	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
2	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
7	11:00 a.m.	First Reconciliation	Church
7	7:00 p.m.	Schuylkill Choral Society Concert.....	Church
8	10:30 a.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
9	9:00 a.m.	Feast of Immaculate Conception—Mass.....	Church
9	7:00 p.m.	Feast of Immaculate Conception—Mass.....	Church
11	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
14/15	after Masses	Catholic Women’s Union ‘Cookie Sale’.....	L.H.
15	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	Church
15	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	Chapel
16	7:00 p.m.	Advent Penance Service	St. Pat’s
24	4:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
24	8:00 p.m.	Christmas Eve Mass	Church
25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass.....	Church

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Ruth & Robert Rescorla
2. IMO King & Gleason Family by Grace King

St. Joseph

1. IMO Werez Family by Grace King
2. IMO Albert Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

Sanctuary

Most Abandoned Soul in Purgatory

Guardian Angels

1. IMO John Heimbaugh by Helen Heimbaugh
2. IMO Albert Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh
- 3&4. IMO Mary Ann Wychunas by Helen Heimbaugh

Chosen, Blessed, Shared

Thank you to those who have given so generously to the “Chosen, Blessed, Shared” annual fund. If you haven’t given, it isn’t too late to support the retired priests of our Diocese by making a gift to the Endowment Fund for the Care of Retired Priests. This special fund is used to directly support retired priests in good standing including the future costs of their healthcare, insurance, housing and sustenance. Please return your gift using the envelope you received in the mail. These envelopes may be returned in the mail or in the collection basket at Mass. For more information visit the website www.weloveourpriests.org. Your generosity supports retired priests from all five counties of our Diocese.

Retired Fund for Religious

Aging religious need your help. “Your support acknowledges that we continue the mission of Christ even in our retirement,” says Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, Sister Celeste Burgos, 80. Donations provide for the care, medicine, and daily needs of over 24,000 senior sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who have dedicated their lives to service. Please give to the Retirement Fund for Religious.

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.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Second Sunday of Advent

December 7 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Ray Petrilla

Server/Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

December 8— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Jeff Naffin

Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose
Janet Daubert

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

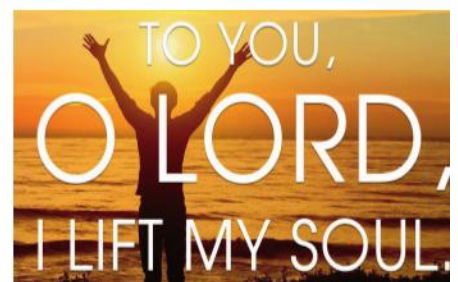
December 8—10:30 a.m.

Reader: John Crane

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Justina Majestic

Server: Gabe Scheidel

Cantor: Dave Derbes



Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, December 2nd**.

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Ann Blankenhorn
Michael Brennan
Bob Burns
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Heidi Gorski
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
Michael Hummel
Reene Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
John Consugar

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

Church Decorating

Your help is needed!!
All are welcome to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please call the rectory if you can help or just show up on ... **Sunday, December 22nd after 10:30 a.m. Mass**

2025 Calendars

Church calendars for the New Year will be available next weekend. Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they are not wasted. We wish to thank the James E. Humphrey Funeral Home for taking care of this expense.



Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses

Monday, December 9—9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.

Catholic Women's Christmas Party

Attention Catholic Women's Union Members. Our Annual Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday, **December 4th** at the Blu Tavern at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25.00.

Menu choices: Stuffed Chicken Breast with filling or Broiled Haddock with Lemon or Virginia Baked Ham. We will also exchange a \$10.00 gift — please wrap your item. For more information please call the Rectory at 570-622-5470 .



Catholic Women's Union Christmas Cookie Sale

Homemade Christmas Cookies to benefit St. John's Catholic Women's Union will be available in Longinus Hall on the following dates ... **Saturday, December 14th** after 5 p.m. Mass and **Sunday, December 15th** after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Prices: \$7.00 and \$8.00 per dozen

Peanut Rolls—\$13.00

Christmas Wafers "Oplatki"

For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Slovakia have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek – Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life since the Last Supper. The host or hostess leads in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone.

Oplatki are available at the Rectory — Monday to Thursday.



Christmas Pageant—4 p.m. Mass—Christmas Eve

Any child 4 years or older who would like to take part in our Christmas Eve's Christmas Pageant may sign up by contacting Darren DeArment at dbd269@gmail.com or call the Rectory at 622-5470.

Rehearsal Dates: Tuesdays, December 10 & 17 from 6 to 6:45 p.m. in the Church. No experience or special talents needed — please just bring your enthusiasm for Jesus and Christmas! We will supply costumes.

Contemporary Music Ensemble

We are looking for new members! We are interested in both singers and instrumentalists. Commitment is minimal (2-3 hours per month) and musical experience/reading music is NOT required. Children and families are encouraged! We encourage parishioners who are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord! Please email or call the rectory to join us! See you in the choir loft!

St. John's Choir

St. John's Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Please email or call the rectory for more information

Family Matters

Be Reconciled. As we approach the sacrament of reconciliation during this Advent time we reflect on how God willingly forgives and pardons us. In our families, we ask for the grace to forgive and to ask for forgiveness. We especially ask for this grace with family members where there have been long term unresolved issues.

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."



Advent Penance Service

**Monday, December 16th— 7:00 p.m.
at St. Patrick's Church**

The Parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Cross, and St. Patrick are invited to celebrate together the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Patrick's Church. The priests will be available until the last confession is heard.

Going to Confession

The Church designates this Advent Season of preparation as an important time to receive the sacrament of Penance also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we examine our life and we seek forgiveness for those things, those actions that keep us from letting the Lord more deeply in our heart.

Confessions at St. John's are as follows:

Tuesday—December 17—4:00 to 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday—December 18—6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Monday—December 23—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.



Season's Greetings

So many have been part of the lives of those who have served our Parish Family . During this Holiday Season, please remember the following:

Rev. David J. Loeper, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pa. 19526

Rev. Donald H. Henry, 4339 Kingston Loop, Sarasota, Fl. 34238

Rev. Matthew J. Kuna, St. Christopher Newman Ctr., 15207 Kutztown Rd., Kutztown, Pa. 19530

Deacon Robert Rienzo, St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, 1400 Evans Rd., Ambler, Pa. 19002

Sister Judith Baldino, 2405 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34231

Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, 2755 Holme Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

Sister Maryanne Zakreski, St. Joseph Convent, 120 Hilldale Road, Cheltenham, Pa. 19012

DO YOU HAVE A LOVED ONE IN THE HOSPITAL?

The HIPPA privacy protection act prohibits the release of patient information admitted to hospitals or nursing homes. Each facility interprets HIPPA differently which often precludes the sharing of this information with your pastor.

In the event of a loved one being hospitalized or admitted to a long term care facility, an authorized family member should inform the parish office.

If Father's schedule permits he will visit your loved one. Remember the number of our priests in the area have dwindled. If it is an EMERGENCY, we will have a priest attend to your loved ones needs in a timely fashion. Please do not wait until the last possible moment to contact a priest. Please also note that patients admitted through the Emergency Room are not asked to specify a religion/priest/or parish.

A Family member needs to inform the parish office ... 570-622-5470.

Diocesan Events ...

CHRISTMAS CONCERT “Sing We Noel” presented by the choirs of the Cathedral (1825 W Turner St, Allentown) at 2 PM on **Sunday December 1st**. Preludes begin at 1:40 PM. All are welcome. Free will offering will be taken to benefit choir needs.

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

BETTER TOGETHER WIDOW AND WIDOWER SOCIAL GROUP. This is a community that allows widows and widowers to connect with others in the same circumstance, meets monthly at Assumption Church, 4101 Old Bethlehem Pike, Bethlehem. Some past meetings include a picnic in the summer, a sing-along/make your own sundaes, and an All Souls remembrance service. The next meeting will be on **December 11th at 1pm**. All are welcome to join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 1:00pm in the Jubilee Center. For more information, please contact Mary Williams at 610-867-7424 x 16.

ADVENT RETREAT FOR WOMEN. *‘Finding Hope Through Prayer’*. The Bishop's Commission for Women invites all women of the Diocese to a peaceful morning of community, prayer, and reflection this Advent season. Join us on **Saturday, December 14th** at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Allentown from 9:00am - 1:00pm. In honor of the Jubilee Year of Hope, our keynote speaker, Fr. John Frink will offer a talk on how to find hope through the practice of prayer. Bishop Alfred Schlert will celebrate Mass, and a continental breakfast will be provided. Registration is open until Tuesday, November 26th. Space is limited, so please register early at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/finding-hope-through-prayer-womens-advent-retreat-2024>. Contact Mary Ann Guman with questions: maryanguman@gmail.com.

Neighboring Events

A Day of Mercy ... is scheduled at St. Theresa of the Child Jesus Church, 1408 Easton Road in Hellertown on **Wednesday, December 4th**. Mass at 8 a.m.; Eucharistic Exposition and Confessions throughout the day; Liturgy of Healing at 6:30 p.m. Light refreshments will follow in Friendship Hall. Homilist is Msgr. Myron Grabowsky, Archeparchy of Philadelphia, Spiritual Director and Exorcist.

Pierogie / Kielbasa Sale. Holy Family Parish of Minersville is now taking orders for our Homemade Pierogies and Kielbasa for Christmas. Pierogies are \$10 a dozen and Kielbasa is \$5 per pound. Orders are due by December 6th and pickup is December 20th. To order please call Rosalie at 570.544.2172 or Jean at 570.640.0140.

Schuylkill Choral Society. *Exultation!*— under the direction of Dr. Mark P. Thomas accompanied by Kimberly Breiner Stoudt. Grand and traditional carols of the holiday season, featuring brass, strings, and organ. **Saturday, December 7**, at 7:00 pm here at St. John the Baptist Church and on Sunday, December 8th at 3:00 PM at First Methodist Church in Schuylkill Haven. Tickets—Adults \$15; Students K-12 & Under \$10. Tickets can be obtained from any chorus member or by calling 570-618-3388. (www.schchoral.org)

Christmas Cash Bingo ... sponsored by St. Nicholas Parish on **Sunday, December 8th**. Doors open 11 AM; Bingo starts 1 PM. Advanced tickets \$35; at the door \$40 Includes 20 regular games—pay out at \$100 each. Extras...specials—pay out @ \$200 each; Jackpot pays out \$1,000. Delicious foods. Tickets available at St. Nicholas School, Rectory, Reliable Home Supply and Styles by Sherri. Call/Text 570-573-1662. Benefits St. Nicholas School.

Spaghetti Dinner ... sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St. on **Sunday, December 8th** from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out). Platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Cost \$22. Extra meatballs or sauce available for purchase.

Pilgrimage from Parish to Lourdes. Join Holy Family Parish of Minersville as we participate in our Parish Pilgrimage from Parish to Lourdes, France, **April 27 - May 6, 2025**. Highlights include Mass every day including the newly reopened Notre Dame Cathedral of Paris, tours of the Louvre, Versailles and dinner in the Eiffel Tower. We will also visit the Mother House of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Lyon and the Papal Palace of Avignon with a wine tasting at the Papal Vineyards of Châteauneuf du Pape. The tour culminates with our visit to the grotto of Lourdes where the Blessed Mother visited St. Bernadette as we celebrate Mass and participate in the Eucharistic and Candle Lit Marian Processions. Please contact Fr. Stokes for more information at Holy Family Parish of Minersville (570) 544 - 4741.



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

ADVENT



SUNDAYKIDZ

C	L	K	D	L	L	S	R	L	S	B	V	R	E	F	X
E	I	K	J	U	V	C	C	X	A	E	U	E	J	V	S
B	F	W	K	T	F	A	B	G	V	L	R	J	O	B	Q
E	P	P	K	I	J	N	V	F	I	I	X	O	S	E	A
G	K	M	S	G	A	D	Y	L	O	E	G	I	E	N	Z
O	Y	V	B	A	V	L	K	U	U	V	L	C	P	Q	M
O	J	L	B	B	O	E	E	S	R	E	C	E	H	M	E
D	G	B	I	E	S	E	E	M	A	C	D	F	J	N	R
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WORDSEARCH

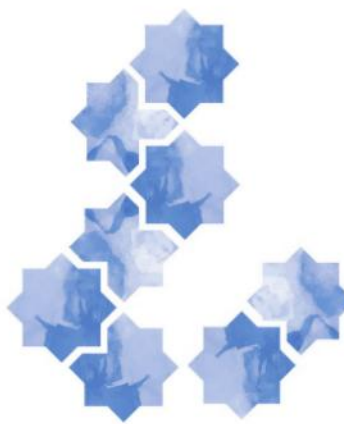
MARY	JOSEPH	REJOICE
ANGEL	PURPLE	SAVIOUR
JESUS	WREATH	EMMANUEL
ADVENT	BELIEVE	GOODNEWS
CANDLE		ISRAEL

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