

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 7, 2025 • Second Sunday of Advent



Peace

Advent

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.....*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

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, Doug Broughton, Kathy Vicic, Joanne Kitsock, Jane Baker, Brenda Helt.*

For our Deceased: *Laurita Buehler, William Pugh*

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 6

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

Sunday, December 7

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

Sunday, December 7

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

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Brian Eckley
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

5:15 p.m. Charles & Catherine Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Tuesday, December 9

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

Wednesday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Angela Hamm
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Thursday, December 11

9:00 a.m. Dorothy Iannola
(Barbara Kasper Family)

Friday, December 12

9:00 a.m. Andrew Walcott Jr.
(Mary Jane Ludwig)

Saturday, December 13

5:00 p.m. George & Dolores Lynn
(Dave, Tony, Joan Marie Lynn)

Sunday, December 14

8:15 a.m. Bill Lecher Jr.
(Mom & Dad)

Sunday, December 14

10:30 a.m. Wellington Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We are coming to the end of our tour of the New Testament. There is just one book left, the last book of the Bible: Revelation. (Please note, there is no "s" on the end of Revelation!) This may be the book that fascinates people the most and, not surprisingly, one of the most misunderstood books of the Bible.

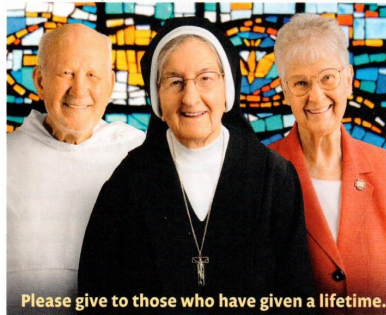
Let's start with what Revelation is *not*. Revelation does not tell us when the world will end. All throughout history, people have claimed to be able to figure out when the world will end. Have you noticed everyone has been wrong? Revelation does not predict events in history. People have tried to associate things in Revelation with specific people or events in history, but this is not what the book is about. Revelation does not contain some secret or esoteric knowledge that adds to or goes against what we already know and believe.

The Book of Revelation is the Gospel. Period. But it presents the Gospel message in a very unique way, using a literary style known as *apocalyptic* literature. Apocalyptic literature tends to deal with the battle between good and evil, affirming that good will win in the end. It deals with the end of history and the end of the world (without giving specific predictions). It uses dramatic imagery and a lot of symbolism.

More on Revelation next week...

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin

Retired Fund for Religious



A lifetime of service deserves care in return. "Thanks to your generosity, we can provide the very best care to the sisters in our community," says Sister M. Stephanie Belgeri, 73, a member of the Sisters of St. Francis of the Martyr St. George in Alton, Illinois. Donations to the Retirement Fund for Religious provide housing, medical assistance, and essential support for thousands of aging religious. Please consider giving next

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.

Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent (December 13/14)

Reading I: Isaiah 35:1-6a, 10

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

"It was of him that the prophet Isaiah had spoken when he said: "A voice of one crying out in the desert, 'Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths.'"

Matthew 3:3

Upcoming Events

December

7	after 10:30 Mass	CCD Service Project	R.B.
7	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	L.H.
7	3:00 p.m.	Schuylkill County Chorus Concert	Church
7	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
7	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Practice	Church
8	9:00 a.m.	Holy Day—Mass—Immaculate Conception	Church
8	5:15 p.m.	Holy Day—Mass—Immaculate Conception	Church
10	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society Mtg	F.R.
11	6:00 p.m.	Ladies of the Rosary	L.H.
13/14	after Masses	Catholic Women's Union 'Cookie Sale'	L.H.
14	9:00 a.m.	CCD Class	R.B.
14	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School / Children's Liturgy	Chapel
15	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
17	6:30 p.m.	Christmas Pageant Practice	Church
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 R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:00 p.m. Weekly Men's Group F.R.



Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Mass Times

Monday, December 8th

9:00 a.m. & 5:15 p.m.

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 22nd – 7:00 p.m.

at St. Clare of Assisi Church in St. Clair

The Parishes of St. John the Baptist, Holy Cross, St. Clare of Assisi and St. Patrick are invited to celebrate together the Sacrament of Reconciliation at St. Clare of Assisi 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:

Thursday,	December 18:	6:30 – 7:30 p.m.
Monday,	December 22:	12:00 – 1:00 p.m.
Tuesday,	December 23:	4:00 – 5:00 p.m.

Weekly Collection

November 22/23.....\$4,997.02

Poverty Relief Fund.....\$1,206.00

November 29/30.....\$4,342.03

Outreach Program\$845.00

Youth Ministry\$1,104.00

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Barbara Forney
by Heenan Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO Special Intention
by Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
2. IMO M/M Richard H. Weiss
by Becky Weiss

Sanctuary

IMO Kathleen McGee
by Ted Gurecki

Guardian Angels

1. IMO James & Theresa Boris
by Richard Naffin
2. IMO James & Theresa Boris
by Margaret Naffin
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Third Sunday of Advent

December 13 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

Reader: Sean Crane

EM: John Crane, John O'Neill

Server: John Crane

Cantor: Dave Derbes

December 14— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Joseph Palmieri

EM: Bob Bechtel, Jeff Naffin

Servers: Gabriel Scheidel

Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

December 14—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vince Balulis

EM: Raymond Petrilla

Frank Murphy

Servers: Kyle & Preston McCormick

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

Weekend Sacristan: R.J. Post

Christmas Bazaar — Thank You

The Christmas Bazaar was held in the Russell Building on November 15/16. The Bazaar was filled with many beautiful Baskets, Specials, Crafts, Treasures from Christmas Past, Delicious Food and our wonderful Baked Goods. There was something for everyone!

A special thank you to **Rick Smith, Vince Shay, John Corbacio** for doing a fantastic job with the food preparation and a special thanks to **Vince Balulis** for making his delicious chicken noodle soup. It was surely a welcomed treat!

And let us not forget all those who donated items including baskets, gift cards, monetary donations, crafts, our Specials, our Sponsors, and of course, all those who patronized the Bazaar. We thank you for your support. Again, thank you to all those who gave of their time and talent to make this year's Bazaar a success!

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with this year's Christmas Bazaar. The wonderful support and hard work from all of our parish family was overwhelming. We all had a great time and we look forward to working with everyone again next year. Our profits totaled

\$ 7,707.44

The Christmas Bazaar Committee

Thank you to this year's Christmas Bazaar Volunteers!

Chris Black, Kate Blackwell, Mary Bound, Nora Chiplonia, Allison Darhun, Michelle Darhun, Joan Deiter, Joyce Gerace, Bernie Gombola, Mary Beth Harvey, Debbie Herb, Pat Klassen, Lucilla Kochol, Jan Kurtek, Maureen Kurtek, Charlene Leshner, Frances Lorenz, Patti Markovich, Maria Mason, Sharon Miller, Donna Pugh, Reese Reddington, Carol Rehnert, Pat Scheetz, Barb Schoenauer, Gerry Schwartz, Tina Seiger, Natalie Setlock, Rosann Sitkus, Linda Smith, Peggy Smith, Barb Wollyung, Joanne Wood.

Our Bakers

Chris Black, Kate Blackwell, Sandy Clauser, Allison Darhun, Michelle Darhun, Joan Deiter, Marie Doyle, Millie Fredericks, Sandy Frinzi, Sr. Mary Jane Hahner, Rik Jochems, Susan Jochems, Pat Kutch, Ann Liptock, Frances Lorenz, Christine Maccarone, Hilda Maley, Theresa McCabe, Annie Murphy, Jane Petrilla, Missy Scheetz, Pat Scheetz, Natalie Setlock, Rosann Sitkus, Ellen Zane

Despite our very best efforts, we invariably misspell, misplace or omit the name of an important person - YOU! We apologize if we have done this.

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 13th** after 5 p.m. Mass and **Sunday, December 14th** after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses.

Prices: \$7.00 and \$8.00 per dozen
Peanut Rolls—\$13.00 per pound

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.



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 15th

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Chris Black
Ann Blankenhorn
Bob Burns
Kenneth Cooper
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Tara DeStefano
Kelley Eroh
Heidi Gorski
Charles Kustan
Barbara Munster
Reese Reddington
Missy Scheetz
Michelle Stone
Gretchen Witman
Kay Wollyung
Marianne Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Tina Seiger

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Robert Reiley
Ray Petrilla
Ed Brahler

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.

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 570-573-4321 or call the Rectory at 622-5470.

Rehearsal Dates: Sunday, December 7 and Wednesday, December 17, both from 6:30 to 7:30 p.m. in the church.

No experience or special talents needed — please just bring your enthusiasm for Jesus and Christmas! We need children to sign-up and participate to carry on this wonderful tradition!



Ladies of the Rosary

Women's Fellowship is now the "**Ladies of the Rosary**". Join us on **Thursday, December 11th** at 6 p.m. in Longinus Hall, the eve of Our Lady of Guadalupe's feast day, for our Mexicano Potluck Theme. Sign-up in the back of church for a menu item to share. We will hear a talk on Our Lady of Guadalupe and recite the Rosary. You may bring a friend.

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

Rev. Robert F. Rienzo, Holy Guardian Angels Rectory, 3121 Kutztown Road, Reading, Pa. 19605

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

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

Sister Maryanne Zakreski, Mt. St. Joseph Convent, 9701 Germantown Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19118



Diocesan Events

St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour of Petition and Hope will take place at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easter Road, Hellertown, on Tuesday, December 9th at 6 p.m. Presiding will be Deacon Maurice Kelly, who serves at Assumption BVM Parish, Bethlehem. Please come join in prayer for the return to the Church of Catholics who are no longer practicing their faith. An informal supper will precede the Holy Hour. Enjoy soup, bread, and beverages in St. Theresa Parish's Friendship Hall beginning at 4:45 p.m. There is no cost for the supper, but donations are accepted. For more information, please email Celese Behe at StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com or call/text 484-554-2022.

Women's Advent Retreat. The Bishop's Commission for Women invites all women of the Diocese to a peaceful day of community, prayer, and reflection this Advent season. Join us on Saturday, December 13, 2025, at St. Francis of Assisi Parish in Allentown from 8:30am - 1:00pm. As Advent Women, we are called, like Mary Our Mother, to be bearers of Hope to our families and communities. Come, in this Jubilee Year of Hope, and rediscover your identity as a bearer of light in a world of darkness.

Space is limited, so please register as soon as possible. Learn more and register at <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/catholic-life/resources-women/womens-advent-retreat-2025>

Closing Celebration of the Jubilee Year of Hope. All are invited to attend the closing celebration for the Jubilee Year of Hope on Sunday, December 28, the Feast of the Holy Family, the same feast on which we began the Jubilee Year of Hope one year ago. The celebration will take place at the Cathedral Church of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown. At 2:00 PM there will be a choral presentation of *Vivaldi's Gloria* by the Cathedral Choir, beautifully interspersed with a Narrative Tour of the Cathedral Church, offering insights into the sacred art and architecture of the Cathedral in light of our diocesan history and mission. The Sacrament of Penance will also be available from 2-3pm. The closing Mass will be at 3pm, celebrated by Bishop Schlert.

Retreat to Fatima and Lourdes with Fr. John Frank. Take a pilgrimage to Fatima and Lourdes from June 7-16, 2026 under the spiritual direction of Fr. John Frink. Click this link: <https://www.206tours.com/cms/frfrink/> to view detailed itinerary, pricing information, and to book.



December 7, 2025

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 11:1-10 | Rom 15:4-9 | Mt 3:1-12

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

Today's Gospel is a challenging one, inviting us to consider how much spiritual fruit we are bearing in our lives. St. John the Baptist tells us, "Produce good fruit as evidence of your repentance," reminding us that the depth of our conversion will be measured by our fruit. Speaking to the Pharisees and Sadducees, John says it is not enough to say that "We have Abraham as our father." If he were speaking today, John might put it this way: it's not enough to say "I'm Catholic!" or "I belong to X Parish." Our lives must show outward evidence of the inward conversion we have undergone. The good news for us today is that we can pause and take stock of how well we are bearing spiritual fruit. Pay attention to what areas might need pruning or fertilizing to ensure that when we come to the Lord's threshing floor at the end of our lives, there is a bountiful harvest he can gather into his barn.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Our first reading gives us a glimpse of God's kingdom: The Son of David will rule with wisdom, understanding, counsel, and knowledge, judging "the poor with justice" and striking "the ruthless with the rod of his mouth." In his kingdom "the wolf shall be a guest of the lamb" and yet "there shall be no harm or ruin." What a poetic way of describing the harmony and wholeness that God longs for in society! As disciples, this is our mission. We're called to work so that God's kingdom vision can become reality. As we work for peace and justice, we're doing our part in the Church's work of evangelization. As the U.S. bishops reminded us in their letter *Communities of Salt and Light*, "social justice is an integral part of evangelization, a constitutive dimension of preaching the Gospel, and an essential part of the Church's mission."

REFLECT

In the Gospel, John the Baptist says of Jesus, "He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and with fire." Our ability to bear spiritual fruit comes from the power of the Holy Spirit within us. Take a moment to reflect on where you see the gifts (see the first reading from Isaiah!) and fruits of the Holy Spirit in your life. How might the Spirit of God be working to increase your spiritual fruitfulness this Advent?