

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

**SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 8, 2019**

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Website – SaintJohnPottsville.org.

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail – stjbparish@comcast.net

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)

Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

Cemetery Information

St. John's Rectory (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.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday – 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

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Outreach Program

Rectory (570)-622-5470

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC
Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

God is calling out to us – through the prophets and apostles.

In this Sunday's readings Isaiah tells of the justice and peace that shall reign in the Kingdom of God. St. Paul prays that God will give the community the ability to be in harmony and united with Christ. And in Matthew's gospel this Sunday, John the Baptist exhorts his listeners to turn away from their sins and be baptized, for the one who is coming after him is even mightier.

God is also calling us through his holy word, through his Son whom he sent to dwell among us – that he has come to save us. His Kingdom is one of justice and peace.

Will we listen to these holy voices crying out to us in the desert of worldly divisions and distractions?

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday – December 9

9:00 a.m.

ANNETTE LIEBERMAN (Robert&Irene Post Family)

5:15 p.m.

JOSEPH REHNERT (John & Joyce Gerace)

Tuesday, December 10 – 9:00 a.m.

CLARA ROSE FAHIM (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Wednesday, December 11 – 9:00 a.m.

PATRICIA HAHNER (Irma Pothering)

Thursday, December 12 – 9:00 a.m.

CECELIA HOCK (Elizabeth Lipsky)

Friday, December 13 – 9:00 a.m.

THERESA RINALDO (Cindy, Harold, Scott Seltzer)

Saturday, December 14– 5:00 p.m.

GEORGE A. LYNN (Lynn & Post Family)

Sunday, December 15 – 8:15 a.m.

WELLINGTON DAUBERT (Janet Daubert)

Sunday, December 15 – 10:30 a.m.

LAMBERT PAULY (Margaret Pauly)

Tuesday – December 10

at York Terrace Nursing Home

NANCY HARRIS (Staff & Residents)

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Sick: Doug Broughton. **Deceased:** Beth Thomas Resnick

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Marie Majestic by Hugh Family

St. Joseph - In Thanksgiving by Bob & Irene Post

Tabernacle – IMO Mary Lou McGinley
by Denise Gerchak

Sanctuary

1. IMO Mary Rinaldo by Vita Valenti

2. IMO Dorothy Prokop by Peggy Ebling

3. IMO Steve Prokop by Peggy Ebling

4. IMO Frances Prokop by Peggy Ebling

Guardian Angels

1. IMO JoAnn Heller by Joe & Barbara Wollyung

2. IMO Al Majestic by Hughes Family

BANNS OF MARRIAGE

II – Gabrielle Nabholz & David Baker

SCHEDULE

IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

9:00 a.m. – Monday – December 9th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Servers: Riley Doyle, Brandon & Andy Smith

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

5:15 p.m. – Monday – December 9th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Bobby Rienzo

Servers: Bethany, Izabella & Trinity Reedy

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

5 p.m. – Saturday – December 14th

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Molly Zwiebel, Bobby Rienzo

Servers: Olivia Tokonitz, Cooper Chiplonia,
Alyssa Sheriff

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 15th

Reader: Dave Smith

Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin, Nicholas Quinn

Servers: Evan & Gavin Woodward, Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Tina Seiger

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 15th

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Charlie Miller

Servers: Anna, Livia, Emma Lieberman

Cantor: Dave Derbes

ATTENTION

All Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ... your help is needed ... please let us know your plans for **January & February** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or e-mail the rectory by Monday, December 9th to let us know when you are **NOT** available during these months. We appreciate your cooperation. Thank you.

THE AMAZING PARISH

St. John's Parish Mission:

.. To encounter Christ and make disciples ..

The leadership team wants to thank everyone who stopped by after Mass last weekend to enjoy the refreshments and to learn a little more about the Amazing Parish. Many thanks to all who set up, organized and served the food and drinks. We received many good suggestions and comments about what parishioners want to see the parish do in the future.

The suggestion box will be in the back of church and everyone is always welcome to contact the team or the rectory with your ideas and critiques.

Please prayerfully consider becoming a minister at the altar or joining our new greeter ministry for the good of St. John's Parish. More to come!

*Father Dave, Josette Peckman, Tara DeStefano,
Bob Hahner, Bill Gianfagna.*

WANTED

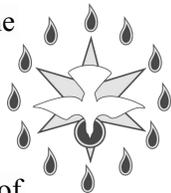
GREETERS FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

No experience necessary. On the job training provided. Prerequisites include: an interest in serving your parish community, 10-15 minutes before mass arrival and the desire to help St. John's become an *Amazing Parish*.

If this sounds like you, please contact the rectory (570)622-5470 or Parish Leadership Team member.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 29, 2020**. Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more candidates. Cards containing the names of the candidates are located on the table in back of church. Please take one and during this time of preparation, please pray for that person in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be doubly blessed!



MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Men's Gospel Reflection Group meeting will take place on **Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Rectory Fellowship Room**. This group is open to any men interested in reflecting on how the Gospel impacts their lives. All are welcome! Please call the Rectory 570-622-5470 with any questions.

Next Week's Readings

THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT (Dec.14/15)

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

Reading II: James 5:7-10

Gospel: Matthew 11:2-11

'TIS (ALMOST) THE SEASON

Advent is a time to prepare our hearts for Christmas, but we often get distracted and busy. Don't let this Advent pass you by. Slow down and focus on what matters most with **BEST ADVENT EVER**.

Each day, you'll receive an email with short inspirational videos from Allen Hunt and Dominick Albano, practical tips for your everyday life, and real-life stories to encourage you in your faith journey.

All you have to do is sign up at BestAdventEver.com.

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

CHILDREN'S LITURGY

Any child 5 years of age or older who would like to take part in our Christmas Eve

Pageant may sign up by contacting [the Rectory 622-5470](tel:622-5470).

Our rehearsal dates are:

Wednesdays – December 11, 18
6 to 7 p.m. in Church.

THE NATIVITY

The tradition of having a **Nativity** scene or "crèche" was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi. It is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, and animals. Each night during **Advent**, children are encouraged to place in the manger one piece of straw for each good deed done that day by a family member. This **Advent** tradition combines the spirit of conversion and the coming of Jesus. There is a blessing ceremony provided by the Church in the Book of Blessings for the crèche.

CHRISTMAS WAFERS "OPLATKI"

What are Oplatki? For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics 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.**

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. + (6 p.m. Children's Mass) + 10 p.m.
(Preludes & Carols at 9:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

Wednesday, December 25 -- 10:00 a.m. only

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES

Saturday, December 28 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29 – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASSES

Tuesday, December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1 – 10:00 a.m. only

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Thursday	December 19	5:30 to 6:30 p.m.
Saturday	December 21	4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday	December 22	7:45 to 8:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 22	10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
Monday	December 23	7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

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.

FAMILY MATTERS

Be Reconciled. As we approach the sacrament of reconciliation during this Lenten 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.

You pray for my family and I'll pray for yours.

2020 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. 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.

-- ST. JOHN'S REMEMBERS --

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

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

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

Rev. Frederick Sattler, Holy Family Villa, 1325 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem, Pa. 18018

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

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

Matthew Kuna, St. Charles Seminary, 100 E. Wynnewood Road, Wynnewood, Pa. 19096



CHRISTMAS ENVELOPES

The Christmas envelope again this year can be found in your recent envelope packet for December and January. There will be no special mailing of the Christmas envelope. If you do not receive regular envelopes or did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available on the tables in the rear of church.

Once again, we ask for your generous support in the Christmas collection. May we suggest a **\$35.00** Christmas donation to the parish. If you can afford to give more, it is greatly appreciated. Once again, thank you for your continued generosity.

RETIRED FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Give in thanksgiving. "The nuns left lasting impressions on me," writes a donor. "I shall always be grateful for my Catholic education." Please join in thanking the thousands of senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests who worked tirelessly to educate the young and serve those in need. Next week's second collection is for the Retirement Fund for Religious, which helps hundreds of religious communities care for aging members. Please give generously.

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 30/December 1: 3,126.00

Parish Dues: \$ 962.00

Outreach Ministry: \$ 351.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

PARISH COUNCIL

St. John's Parish Council will meet

Monday, December 9th – 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.

There are two ways that any parishioner may raise a question or concern or make recommendations.

1. Parishioners may approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the meeting.
2. Parishioners may write their concerns, etc. and put it (them) in the suggestion box provided in the rear of the church. These may be signed or unsigned. They will then be brought up at the Council meeting.

Elected Members

Bob Bechtel
John Consugar
Paul Datte
Darren DeArment
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Alicia Kleman
Eric Lieberman
Kevin McNamara
Al Norkus
Patty O'Neill
Josette Peckman
John Pfluger
John Powers
Nick Quinn
Melissa Scheetz
Martin Smith

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
Evelyn Datte

Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler
Deacon Larry Lonergan
Deacon Luis R. Visot
Father Dave Loeper

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

Sunday, December 15th

after 8:15 & 10:30 a.m. Masses

Prices: \$5.00 and \$6.00 per dozen

Peanut Rolls - \$10 per pound

CHURCH DECORATING: Your help is needed. !!! All are welcome to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please call the Rectory if you can help



Sunday, December 22nd after 10:30 a.m. Mass

PARISH COUNCIL PRESIDENT'S CORNER

My fellow parishioners,

During his time on Parish Council, Dr. Robert DeColli started the President's Corner as a way to inform the parish of the goings on of Parish Council. I would like to bring it back as I feel it is a great way to keep everyone apprised of our activities.

Following the events of the Tree of Life Synagogue shooting in October of 2018, then President Paul Datte felt it necessary to form a ***Safety and Security Committee*** for our church. We on Parish Council felt it was important that we examine all aspects of safety and security at St. John's to see what, if anything, we could update or improve. The committee met and gave a report to Parish Council with various suggestions. One of these which we are in the process of planning is a class titled ***Citizen Response to Active Shooter Events (CRASE)***, taught by Pottsville Police Chief Richard Wojciechowsky (a member of our Parish). This class was developed by the FBI and teaches the principles of "Run, Hide, Fight" during an active shooter event. This class will be held in the first quarter of 2020 and will be open to all members of Saint John's.

Our next Parish Council meeting will be held on Monday, December 9th. Should you have any questions, comments, or concerns which you would like us to discuss, please see a member of Parish Council.

Bobby Bechtel, Parish Council President

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

December

- 9 Immaculate Conception Masses 9 am & 5:15 pm
9 Parish Council – 7 p.m. – L.H.
10 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
11 St. John’s Beneficial Soc. – 8 p.m. – F.R.
14/15 Christmas Cookie Sale after Masses – L.H.
15 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.
17 Men’s Gospel Reflection Group – 7 p.m. – F.R.
22 Church decorating after 10:30 a.m. Mass
22 Christmas Caroling – 2 p.m. – L.H.
24 Christmas Eve – Masses 4 – 6 – 10 p.m.
25 Christmas Day – Mass – 10 a.m.
28/29 Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph
31 Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 5:15 p.m.
Jan.1 Solemnity of Mary – Mass – 10 a.m.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

The **Family Guild** will be sponsoring the **Gift Card Calendar Raffle for March 2020**. The members of the Guild would like to extend the opportunity to all parishioners to sponsor any type of **Gift Card** or make a monetary donation to purchase a gift card. If you are interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.



St. John’s ENSEMBLE

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. Practices will be one or, at most, twice a month for **ONE HOUR**, to prepare for music at Mass that week. This is a great way to participate in parish life

and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you?

If interested call **the Rectory 622-5470**.

CHRISTMAS CAROLING

Everyone is welcome! Come as a family...bring your friends...all ages. We'll gather in Longinus Hall on **Sunday, December 22nd at 2:00p.m.** for refreshments. Children and teens are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and bring Christmas joy to others. No registration; please arrive at Longinus Hall by 2:15.

ST. JOHN’S BENEFICIAL SOCIETY will meet on **Wednesday, December 11th at 8 p.m.** in the Rectory Fellowship Room.



CHILDREN’S BOX ENVELOPES

If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly contribution envelopes for 2020, please contact the rectory during the week at ... 622-5470 ext.3.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John’s by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.



HAHNER BROS, INC.
ROOFING & SHEET METAL

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Pottsville, PA 17901 Fax: 570-622-7050
Email: scott@hahnerbroosroofing.com

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ASSUMPTION BVM SCHOOL

GIFT CARD CALENDAR RAFFLE ... will take place during the month of December to benefit the school and its students. Calendars are \$10 each and are good for all 31 drawings during the month. Calendars can be purchased from any ABVM family or from the school. Please contact the school at 570-622-0106 or email tmengel@assumptionbvmschool.net. Thank you for helping make our Calendar Raffle a success.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... An hour a week of moderate to vigorous physical activity may be enough to help prevent disability in people with knee osteoarthritis or other lower-extremity joint symptoms, according to a new observational study of 1,564 people in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. Most of the participants (ages 45 to 79) reported pain or stiffness of the knee or hip (smaller numbers had foot or ankle symptoms); none had physical disability to begin with. Disability was determined by slow walking speed and having limitations in daily activities. Those who were moderately or vigorously active for at least 55 minutes a week, as recorded by an accelerometer worn for a week at the start, were significantly more likely to remain disability-free over the next four years than those who rarely were that active. That's less than 10 minutes of brisk walking per day, on average. While federal physical activity guidelines advise at least 150 minutes of moderate activity (or 75 minutes of vigorous activity) per week, this lower target may "motivate inactive older adults to begin their path towards a physically active lifestyle," the study concluded.