

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 8, 2024 • Second Sunday of Advent

Peace



Advent

Mass Intentions

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)

Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary

Monday, December 9

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

7:00 p.m. Jean Reddington
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Tuesday, December 10

9:00 a.m. Daniella Viola DeRosa
(Fran & Jay Shockley)

Wednesday, December 11

9:00 a.m. John & Kathleen Hohman
(Hohman Sons)

Thursday, December 12

9:00 a.m. Helen Lescavage
(Nancy Lescavage)

Friday, December 13

9:00 a.m. Janice C. Rehnert
(Joan Koslosky)

Saturday, December 14

5:00 p.m. Lynn & Post Families
& Jacqueline Kost
(Tony, Joan Marie, Dave, Bob)

Sunday, December 15

8:15 a.m. Xenia Pristas
(Brian & Barbara Barket)

Sunday, December 15

10:30 a.m. Scott Rhoades
(Carol Rhoades)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

In our tour of the Old Testament prophets, last week we looked at Ezekiel, who lived through the Babylonian Exile. You may remember we previously looked at the Book of Isaiah, but not entirely. The Book of Isaiah has two, arguably three parts, that reflect different time periods. Today it's time to look at the second part of Isaiah, chapters 40-55, because this section reflects the time of the Babylonian Exile.

The Exile lasted fifty years (587-537 BC). This is not a long time in human history, but it is long in terms of a human lifetime. A new generation of Israelites was born in Babylon. This was their home. They had no experience of Judah or Jerusalem. The prophet Isaiah creates a sense of nostalgia for the Promised Land, reminding the people that Babylon is not their true home.

In these chapters of Isaiah, the prophet has a message of hope and comfort. In fact, this is the first place in the Bible we find the expression "Good News" (Gospel). The Good News is that God will bring back His people from exile and restore them to their true home. Isaiah compares the return from exile to the Exodus from Egypt, except that the return from exile will be even greater. These chapters of Isaiah contain many beautiful and moving passages, some of which we read during the Advent season.

One feature of Isaiah 40-55 is a series of passages that seem to form a story within a story. They are known as the Suffering Servant Songs and, from a Christian perspective, they clearly foreshadow Christ. We read these passages during Holy Week and on Good Friday.

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.



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 • Chuck Majestic*

For our Deceased

Agnes Leffler

Family Matters: Religious Women and Men. We give thanks to God for the families of religious women and men in our parishes. They helped to nourish their vocations to religious life. May God continue to support and encourage our religious as they minister in our parish communities.



Upcoming Events

December

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
10	6:00 P.M.	Christmas Pageant practice Church
11	8:00 p.m.	St. John’s Beneficial Society Mtg F.R.
12	6:30 p.m.	Advent Reflection Chapel
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
17	6:00 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 Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group F.R.

Weekly Collection

November 23/24.....	\$4,683.75
Nov. 30/ Dec. 1	\$5,545.19
Parish Dues	\$1,196.00
Poverty Relief	\$1,307.00
Outreach	\$695.00
Youth Ministry	\$1,139.00

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family
2. IMO Hilda Burns
by Peggy Smith

St. Joseph

1. IMO Thomas Burns
by Peggy Smith
2. IMO George & Charles
Bartholomew
by Frances Lorenz

Sanctuary

IMO Kelly Ann Gemmill
by Rick & Michelle Stone

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Raydell Wychunas
by Helen Heimbaugh
2. IMO Kelly Ann Gemmill
by Rick & Michelle Stone
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Retired Fund for Religious

Support those who have given a lifetime. Women and men religious have dedicated their lives to service — praying, teaching, and caring for those in need — usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. Your donation provides for the essential care, medicine, and daily needs of thousands of senior women and men religious. Please give generously.



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.



Advent Reflection

The Joyful Mysteries: An Advent Reflection will be offered by Fr. Bobbin on **Thursday, December 12, 6:30pm** in the chapel. Join us for an evening of talks, music, and prayer to help you prepare for Christmas.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Third Sunday of Advent

December 14 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Patty O’Neill
Euch.Min.: John Crane
Deacon Reiley

Server: Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Joanne Matina

December 15— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bill Gianfagna
Euch.Min.: Bob Bechtel
Deacon Reiley

Server/Sacristan: Luke Schane
Cantor: Dave Derbes

December 15 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jennifer Daubert
Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert
Frank Murphy

Server: Jackson Daubert
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung

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 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.

Girls CYO Basketball

Any girls in 4th to 6th grade who attend a diocesan school or who are registered members of St. John's or other participating parish are eligible to participate in CYO basketball. For more information, contact Scott Forney at Forney.scott@gmail.com.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping 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.

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."

PEACE



Immaculate Conception

Holy Day of Obligation

Masses

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



St. John's Catholic Women's Union Installation of Officers.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union officers for the next term were installed by Father Bobbin at their monthly meeting on November 20th.

Pictured left to right:

President: Barbara Munster
Vice President: Joan Deiter
Secretary: Kelly Eroh
Treasurer: Judy Piel

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 Bazaar Wrap-up

The Christmas Bazaar was held in the Russell Building on November 16/17. 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** and **Don Tassone** 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 **\$ 8,610.75**

The Christmas Bazaar Committee



Thank you to this year's Christmas Bazaar Volunteers!

- Roxana Achach
- Chris Black
- Katie Blackwell
- Mary Bound
- Nora Chipionia
- Ally Darhun
- Michelle Darhun
- Janet Daubert
- Joan Deiter
- Karla Garland
- Mary Beth Harvey
- Debbie Herb
- Pat Klassen
- Lucilla Kochol
- Jan Kurtek
- Maureen Kurtek
- Charlene Leshner
- Frances Lorenz
- Christine Maccarone
- Patty Markovich
- Maria Mason
- Sharon Miller
- Patty O'Neill
- Donna Pugh
- Reene Reddington
- Carol Rehnert
- Pat Scheetz
- Barb Schoenauer
- Gerry Schwartz
- Tina Seiger
- Natalie Setlock
- Roseanne Sitkus
- Linda Smith
- Peggy Smith
- Barb Wollyung
- Joanne Wood

Our Bakers

- Sandy Clauser
- Michelle Darhun
- Janet Daubert
- Joan Deiter
- Sue Jochems
- Fran Lorenz
- Chris Maccarone
- Hilda Maley
- Jane Petrilla
- Missy Scheetz
- Par Scheetz
- Natalie Setlock
- Rosann Sitkus

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.



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.



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

Diocesan Events ...

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: maryannguman@gmail.com.

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

Neighboring Events

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 \$11. Extra meatballs or sauce available for purchase.

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



December 8, 2024
 Second Sunday of Advent
 Bar 5:1-9 | Phil 1:4-6, 8-11 | Lk 3:1-6

Written by
 THE
 FAITHFUL
 DISCIPLE

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

On this second Sunday of Advent, when the hustle and bustle of the season is already upon us, I find Paul’s words in his Letter to the Philippians very comforting. He says he is confident “that the one who began a good work in [us] will continue to complete it until the day of Christ Jesus.” Jesus will continue to be our Advocate and our Rock until the day he comes again. Yes, these are comforting words, indeed. But we know that being a disciple of Christ requires our cooperation and our daily assent to doing God’s will. How do we know God’s will for us? In his letter, Paul goes on to pray that our love may continue to increase in knowledge and perception “to discern what is of value.” In other words, if we are going to be able to choose what is good, we must be able to recognize it and then focus on it.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

This is where “the voice of one crying out in the wilderness” speaks to us during this season in which we prepare for Christ’s coming. It is a season of hope and anticipation, but it also must be a season of preparation. In today’s Gospel, the proclamation of John the Baptist takes center stage; he proclaims a “baptism of repentance for the forgiveness of sins” and says to “prepare the way of the Lord.” These words do not suggest passivity - waiting patiently for the Lord to come. They suggest action: Repent. Prepare. Make straight his paths. Today let us consider how we can prepare for the Lord’s coming in our own lives. God has made us *good*, and he wants to bring that goodness to completion. As we continue in this Advent season, let us stay focused on recognizing and choosing “what is of value” in our lives so that we are able to truly rejoice that the Lord draws near.