

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 10, 2023 • Second Sunday of Advent

Peace



Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 9

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

Sunday, December 10

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

Sunday, December 10

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

Monday, December 11

6:30 p.m. Karen Comfort
(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Tuesday, December 12

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

Wednesday, December 13

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

Thursday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Larry Lonergan)

Friday, December 15

9:00 a.m. John Wollyung
(Bernadette Valentine)

Saturday, December 16

5:00 p.m. Rocco & Frances
Maccarone
(Maccarone Family)

Sunday, December 17

8:15 a.m. Joan Garland
(Garland/Kurtek Family)

Sunday, December 17

10:30 a.m. Catherine & James Smith
& Rev. Martin Smith
(Martin Smith)

Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent
(December 16/17)

Reading I: Isaiah 61:1-2a

Reading II: 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

Gospel: John 1:6-8, 19-28

Message from Father Bobbin

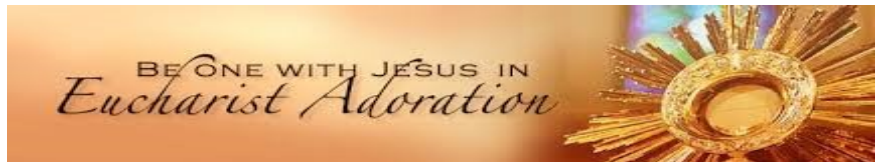
Dear Parishioners,

Over these four Sundays of Advent, we reflect on four spiritual realities that are traditionally symbolized by the four candles of the Advent wreath. The candle for the First Sunday of Advent represents hope. The candle for the Second Sunday of Advent represents *faith*.

There is a lot we can say about faith. When I teach about faith, especially with kids, I like to cut through all the discussion and offer the simplest definition possible. *Faith is a relationship with God*. Faith is the gift of a relationship with God which begins (formally) with our Baptism. From that moment on, we are called to grow in faith by growing in a relationship with God, the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

Advent calls us to prepare for two comings of Christ: His future coming at the end of the world (or, more likely His "coming" to us at the moment of our deaths), and also the celebration of His coming in history: Christmas. In between these two comings stands the present moment. Jesus is with us right now. We encounter His presence in daily prayer, in the sacraments, in the inspired words of Sacred Scripture, and in the people and experiences that make up any given day of our lives. Besides being faithful to the sacraments, we need to invite Him into every single day through prayer and reflection. This helps us grow in a relationship with Him, growing in faith. We will more deeply understand and appreciate His coming on Christmas, and we will be better prepared to meet Him in the future because that moment of meeting Jesus face-to-face will not be the awkward meeting of strangers but the joyful reunion of loved ones.

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 • Robert Kline • Tony Kochol • Josephine Gallagher
Tom Jefferson • Christine Kurtek • Dominic Maccarone • Drew Schaeffer
Shawn Matz • Gerald Hudock • Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky
Sue Mengle • Anthony S. Gaburick

Upcoming Events

December

10	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class..... L.H.
11	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council L.H.
13	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society Mtg F.R.
17	9:15 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg. L.H.
19	6:00 p.m.	Children's Christmas Pageant Rehearsal Church
20	7:00 p.m.	Advent Penance Service 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

January

1	9:00 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary Mass..... Church
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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

December 2/3\$4,633.80

Parish Dues\$1,134.00

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

Please **do not** use **tape** or **staples** to seal your offertory envelopes

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention
by John & Mary Jean Morgalis
2. IMO Eleanor O'Brien
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach

St. Joseph

1. IMO Ruth Minnichbach
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Raymond Frank
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach

Sanctuary

IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Howard Minnichbach
by Jack & Susan Minnichbach
2. IMO Kathy Bowers
by Joan Bowers
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy Family

Lenten Dinners – Kitchen Coordinators Needed

This past year we were fortunate to bring back our Friday Lenten Dinners at the Russel Building, with the option of dining in or taking out. We are grateful to all the people who took charge and organized the dinners, and to the many volunteers. Unfortunately, some of our key people are no longer able to help organize the dinners because of changes in their personal circumstances. Therefore, future Lenten dinners will depend on one or more persons stepping forward to fill the role of kitchen coordinator(s). This is a leadership role, which would involve taking charge of the kitchen, planning the menu and determining what foods and supplies must be purchased, and delegating responsibilities to the volunteers. This role can be shared by two or three people working together. Please call the rectory or speak with Father as soon as possible if you can help.

Diocesan Events

Monica Ministry

The St. Monica Ministry will hold a bilingual Holy Hour to pray for the return of loved ones who have left the Church. The Holy Hour will take place at St. Theresa Church, Hellertown, at 6:00pm on **Tuesday, December 12th**, the Feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe. It will be preceded by a buffet dinner and basket raffle starting at 4:00pm in the parish's Friendship Hall. Presiding at the Holy Hour will be Deacon Miguel Ramirez of Our Lady of Mercy and St. Anthony of Padua Parishes in Easton. Deacon Ramirez will offer a bilingual reflection on Our Lady of Guadalupe's maternal love for her children, and on her constant intercession for those who have left the Church. No registration is required to take part in the Holy Hour. To register for the dinner, visit www.allentowndiocese.org/stmonicaministry. For more information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

Women's Advent Retreat: A Season of Joy

Saturday, December 16, 9:00 am – 12 noon, St. Mary's Church Hall, 94 Walnut Rd., Hamburg, PA. Open to women of all ages, the morning will feature breakfast, fellowship, Keynote by Fr. Stephan Isaac, and prayer. Co-Sponsored by the Diocese of Allentown's Bishop's Commission for Women and the Catholic Women's Society of Giving. Please register here: allentowndiocese.flocknote.com/signup/141991.

Liturgical Min. Schedule

December 16 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri

Euch.Min.: Joe Palmieri

Gerry Schwartz

Server: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

December 17— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin

Michael Ambrose

Servers: Ethan Grabowski

Cantor: Amy Joyce

December 17— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

John Matulevich

Servers: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Dave Derbes

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

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.

PEACE



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. Catharine of Siena Parish, 2427 Perkiomen Ave., Reading, Pa. 19606

Seminarian—Bobby Rienzo, 6329 Sauterne Drive, Macungie, Pa. 18062

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

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 thru Thursday.**

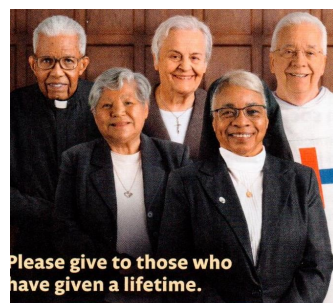


Christmas Pageant—4 p.m. Mass—Christmas Eve



Any child 5 years or older who would like to take part in our Christmas Eve Pageant may sign up by contacting Sarah DeArment at 570-617-8418 or the Rectory 570-622-5470.

Rehearsal Dates: Tuesday, December 19 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!



Retirement Fund for Religious

Support of a lifetime of service. Women and men religious have spent their lives serving others in prayer, ministry, education and care for those in need — usually for little or no pay. Today, their religious communities do not have enough retirement savings. As they age, they require essential care and medications. Please support them by giving to the Retirement Fund for Religious. Your donation makes a difference for nearly 25,000 senior men and women religious. Please give generously!

Neighboring Events

Walk Through Live Nativity ... Follow the Star ...

December 15 & 16 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Trinity Lutheran Church, 300 W. Arch St. in Pottsville. For more details: www.trinitypottsville.com.



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 11th.**

Elected Members

Vincent Balulis
Ann Blankenhorn
Michael Brennan
John Crane
Michelle Darhun
Darren DeArment
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Sr. Mary Jane Hahner
Michael Hummel
Joseph Kurtek
Nannette Major
John Powers
Reene Reddington
Kay Wollyung
Robert Wollyung

Appointed Members

Lucilla Kochol
John Consugar

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Larry Lonergan
Deacon Luis R. Visot
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 17th after 10:30 a.m. Mass**

2024 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.



Advent Penance Service

**Wednesday, December 20th
at St. John's**

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 here at St. John'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:

Monday—December 18—4:00 to 5:00 p.m.
Tuesday—December 19—6:30 to 7:30 p.m.



First Reconciliation

We celebrate with the families of our third-grade children who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 2nd. Congratulations! May God bless you and keep you close.

Pictured left to right are:

**Joel Whalen, Jaxson Hauptly,
Harlow Peters, Adrianna Price,
Avery Lieberman**



Nativity BVM High School Happenings

Members of the Interact Club collected winter clothing during the month of November. Members of the club also collected diapers and all items were donated to Catholic Charities. The Interact Club sponsored a Red Cross Blood Drive on November 6, 2023. We exceeded our goal and collected 38 units of blood. The club will sponsor this event again in the spring. The next event will be the writing of Christmas cards to the students in Pre-K through 2nd grade in our partner schools.

Nativity is currently accepting inquiries for enrollment for the 2024-2025 school year. Individual meetings, school tours and shadow days are being scheduled for possible enrollment. Please contact Mrs. Jenifer Daubert in the Development office with any enrollment questions.

OPEN HOUSE AND REGISTRATION:

Registration for the 2024-2025 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 28, 2024 from 1:00 to 3:00 pm at the school. Faculty, staff, administration and coaches will be available to answer questions. Tours of the school will be given and tuition assistance drawings will be available that afternoon for those who register. Please contact Jennifer Daubert @ 570-622-8110 with any questions.

Nativity's Annual Band & Chorus Christmas Concert will be held on December 21, 2023 @ 7 PM at the school. Please join us for this special event!



December 10, 2023

Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Can you hear it? The voice crying out in the desert? While John the Baptist was the one literally proclaiming, from the desert, the coming of the Lord, we should listen for echoes of his message today. John foretold that Jesus – the Father’s Incarnate Son – was on his way to redeem the world. Through Jesus’ passion and death, the gates of heaven were flung open so all who believe in him would have eternal life. This is the Good News he proclaimed then, and the Church proclaims today: *Christ has come! Christ has died, Christ is risen, and Christ will come again.* This is what we prepare for in Advent – to celebrate, on Christmas day, Christ’s coming into the world, and that he will one day return in glory. The Lord gives comfort to his people in his words, and in his presence to us in the Eucharist: “According to his promise we await new heavens and a new earth in which righteousness dwells.” So, trust in the Lord, remain vigilant, and take heed of the voices that remind us to “prepare the way of the Lord.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Each year, we are given the gift of Advent. It is a season that invites us to slow down, reflect on the gift of Jesus and prepare to celebrate the Nativity of the Lord. Ironically, though, it happens at one of the most frenzied times of the year as we rush to keep up with cookie baking, tree decorating and merry-making. Advent is short – it includes four Sundays but can be three to four weeks long depending on the weekday upon which Christmas falls – and it sometimes doesn’t seem long enough to truly prepare our hearts. This year Advent is three weeks and a day – so we are close to reaching the midway point, which is a good time to ask ourselves: How tuned in are we to John the Baptist’s message? If we feel like we’re being carried along in a wave of consumerism, it’s not too late to make a course correction. We can step away from the fray and carve out time to enjoy the stillness of Advent and truly listen to the voice crying out in the desert.

SING *Furrows, be glad. Though earth is bare,
One more seed is planted there:
Give up your strength the seed to nourish,
That in course the flower may flourish.
People, look east and sing today:
Love, the rose, is on the way.*

Pastor *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon *Lawrence Lonergan*

Parish Council President *Kevin McNamara*
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

