

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

www.saintjohnpottsville.org

Pastor..... *Rev. David J. Loeper*
Deacons *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*

Pastoral Assistant..... *Bobby Rienzo*
Parish Council President *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator..... *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470
E-mail..... stjbparish@comcast.net
Nativity BVM High School..... (570) 622-8110
Rectory Fax..... (570) 622-4589
Assumption BVM Elementary..... (570) 622-0106
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
St. Joseph Center..... (570) 622-4638

Cemetery Information

John Consugar..... (570) 449-1675

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

Tuesday 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

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

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Office of Safe Environment
Pamela Russo, MSW, MS
610-871-5200, Ext. 2204
prusso@allentowndiocese.org

Third Sunday of Advent • December 13th, 2020



Established in 1841

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Michael Boyer
(Joanne Woznicki)

Tuesday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Kem Moser
(Pat Klassen)

Wednesday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Ann M. Koch
(Dan & Hermine Murphy)

Thursday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Marie Asaif
(Howard Mitchell)

Friday, December 18

9:00 a.m. Joseph Wollyung
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Saturday, December 19

5:00 p.m. John & Margaret Kasinecz
(Kasinecz Family)

Sunday, December 20

8:15 a.m. Joan Garland
(Steve & Jan Kurtek)

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

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday of Advent is known as Gaudete Sunday. It affirms the value of rejoicing and gives reasons for our rejoicing. In this Sunday's first reading Isaiah rejoices as he brings glad tidings of God's vindication for his people. In the second reading St. Paul encourages rejoicing as God prepares his people for the return of the Lord. And in the gospel John the Baptist testifies to the light and cries out in the desert to make straight the way of the Lord.

God has given hope to his people waiting for redemption. Advent is a season of waiting and joyful hope for the coming of the Lord. We wait with rejoicing for what God has already accomplished and will yet accomplish through Christ.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

Additional Advent Confession times will be
offered Sunday, December 20 through
Tuesday, December 22



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

Helen Hufnagle

For Our Deceased

Christopher Figueiredo



Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 19/20)

Reading I: 2 Samuel 7:1-5, 8b-12, 14a, 16

Reading II: Romans 16:25-27

Gospel: Luke 1:26-38

Upcoming Events

December

13	5:00 p.m.	Advent Holy Hour	Church
13	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class	L.H.
14	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council	L.H.
19	3:00 p.m.	Holiday Food Sale (until 6:30 p.m.).....	R.B.
20	9:00 a.m.	Holiday Food Sale (until sell out)	R.B.
20	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes	School
20	4:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	Church
21	7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	Church
22	6:00 p.m.	Reconciliation	Church
24		Christmas Eve Masses (2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.)	
25		Christmas Day Mass (10 a.m.)	

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

Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Men’s Group	Zoom
		Meeting ID: 824-780-6433	
		Password: men	
Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
		Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family	

Sign-ups for Christmas Masses end next weekend.

Due to capacity restrictions and the anticipated crowd, Mass attendance at all Christmas Masses is by reservation only. Sign up in the back of Church to reserve a seat for your household. Reservations for all Masses ends December 20.



Holiday Food Sale

Get your homemade Fish Dinner favorites to-go for this holiday season! Our lump crab cakes ready-to-bake (\$5 each), halupkis by the half-dozen (\$6) and dozen (\$12), quarts of macaroni and cheese (\$7), and our clam chowder (\$8) are available starting at 3:00 p.m. on Saturday, December 19 and after all Masses until sellout.



Weekly Collection

December 5/6\$ 5,750.13

Parish Monthly Dues\$ 1,267.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

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.

Children’s Box Envelopes

If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly contribution envelopes for 2021, please contact the rectory.

Candle Donations

BVM	IMO Marie Majestic (Kathy Hughes)
St. Joseph	Special Intention
Tabernacle	IMO Al Majestic (Kathy Hughes)
Sanctuary	IMO Janet Doyne (Don & Joanne Doyne) IMO George Hahner Sr. (Hahner Family) IMO Paul Murphy (2) (Babe Murphy)
Guardian Angels	IMO Ramon Grapsy (2) (Joan Grapsy)

Starting January 1, 2021, the candle arrangements will be as follows: BVM (2), St. Joseph (2), Sanctuary (1), Guardian Angels (4) due to our new arrangement.

**Thank you to this year's
Christmas Bazaar
Bakers and Volunteers!**

Chris Black
Katie Blackwell
Mary Bound
Cooper Chiplonia
Nora Chiplonia
Allie Darhun
Michelle Darhun
Janet Daubert
Ann Marie DeFrank
Joan Deiter
Millie Fredericks
Karla Garland
Joyce Gerace
Bernadette Gombola
Mary Jane Hahner
Mary Beth Harvey
Debbie Herb
Sue Jochems
Maeve Ketner
Pat Klassen
Lucilla Kochol
Jan Kurtek
Joe Kurtek
Charlene Leshar
Frances Lorenz
Maria McMurtie
Judy Meseravage
Patty Miller
Patty O'Neill
Mary Porter
Carole Quirin
Reene Reddington
Pat Scheetz
Hope Scheidel
Lucy Scheidel
Barbara Schoenauer
Gerry Schwartz
Emma Seiger
Tina Seiger
Natalie Setlock
Roseanne Sitkus
Peggy Stoppi
Dianne Stoudt
Julie Szeliga
Janet Thomas
Luis R. Visot
Judy Williams
Barbara Wollyung
Joanne Wood

We apologize if we
misspelled or omitted
your name!



Christmas Bazaar Wrap-up

Even amid the pandemic of COVID 19 we were still able to have our annual Christmas Bazaar, although things were a little different this year. The Bazaar was held in the Russell Building instead of Longinus Hall and all food items were take out only. However, the Bazaar was filled with many beautiful baskets, crafts and baked goods. There was something for everyone. A big thank you goes out to our Christmas Bazaar Committee who works very hard each year to make the Bazaar something special.

A special thank you to Ann Marie DeFrank and our Food Committee for doing a fantastic job with the food preparation and a special thanks to the Pugh Family for making their special "Pugh Family Bean Soup" which is normally a part of our Summer Festival. 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 and, of course, all those who patronized the Bazaar even though it was a masked event including sanitizing of hands upon entrance. We thank you for your support. Hopefully the Bazaar in 2021 will be back to normal. Again, thank you to all those who gave of their time and talent to make this Bazaar a success.

Father Dave

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 **\$10,912.60**.

The Christmas Bazaar Committee



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:

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

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

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

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

Seminarian Matthew Kuna, 3001 Lindberg Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103



December 13, 2020 | Third Sunday of Advent

Is 61:1-2A, 10-11 | 1 Thes 5:16-24 | Jn 1:6-8, 19-28

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

The prophet’s words in the Book of Isaiah are bursting with hope: “The Lord ... has sent me to bring glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, to proclaim liberty to the captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor from the Lord.” As we enter the third week of Advent, these words may resonate more deeply for many of us as we look back on 2020. We know that for many of the world’s people, struggle can be an everyday reality; however, after this year marked by pandemic, mourning, racial injustice, and mounting unemployment, the prophet’s hope-filled words may hit home more acutely. Regardless of what 2020 has been like for us, Advent is a reminder that we have reason for hope: in Emmanuel, God with us. Let us prepare our hearts and our minds for Christ’s coming through prayer, confident that the Lord will fulfill the promises of the prophet.

WITNESS Last week we focused on making God’s kindness visible through our words and actions toward the people with whom we live and interact regularly; this week, let our witness focus on testifying to the light in our digital presence and encounters. Make your words be those that foster hope and promise rather than incite division.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Light! Here in the Midwest in December we don’t see nearly enough of it. Every year I consider purchasing a “happy lamp” and vow to “up” my Vitamin D intake. Perhaps that’s why I was taken by the line in today’s Gospel describing John the Baptist: “He came ... to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him.” As predicted by John the Baptist and the prophet, Christ came to dwell among us, and remains within us through the Eucharist and the working of the Holy Spirit. We, like John the Baptist, can “testify to the light” by sharing Christ’s presence through our witness to others.



First Reconciliation

We celebrate with the families of our third-grade children who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 5th. Congratulations! May God bless you and keep you close.

Pictured are, bottom L to R: Gwenyth Lieberman, Kaier Lieberman, Alaina Wright; top L to R: Isla Shoener, Dylan Fanelli, Mallory LeBlanc. Not pictured is Cole Dissinger who will receive the Sacrament at a later date.

We need your help...

Church Decorating

We need your help to decorate our church for Christmas after 10:30 a.m. Mass on Sunday, December 20. Call or email the rectory if you can help.

Outreach

We are in need of volunteers who would be willing to send cards or make phone calls to our parishioners who are elderly, sick, or homebound, during this time of pandemic. Call or email the rectory if you can help.

Available for pickup...

Christmas Wafers (Oplatki)

Oplatki are available at the rectory.

2021 Calendars are arriving soon.

2021 church calendars sponsored by the James E. Humphrey Funeral Home will be available soon. Please feel free to take one but make sure that they are not wasted.