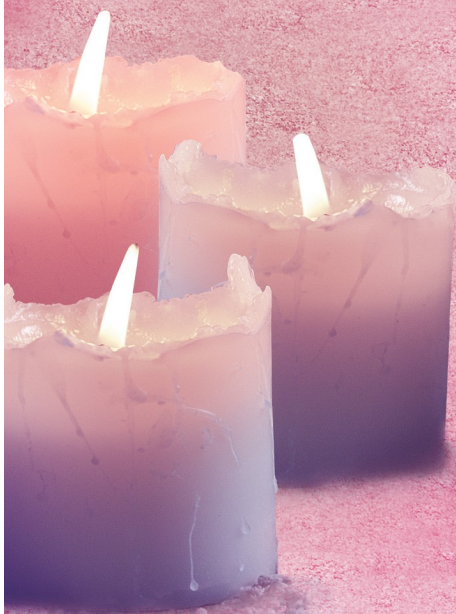


St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 15, 2024 • Third Sunday of Advent

Joy



Advent

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, December 16

9:00 a.m. Bill Lecher Jr.
(Mom & Dad)

Tuesday, December 17

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

Wednesday, December 18

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

Thursday, December 19

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Sr.
(Scott Hahner)

Friday, December 20

9:00 a.m. Charlie & Catherine
Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Saturday, December 21

5:00 p.m. R.J. Post
(Bob & Irene Post)

Sunday, December 22

8:15 a.m. Anthony S. Gaburick
(Anne Gaburick & Family)

Sunday, December 22

10:30 a.m. Robert Lotz
(Rita Lotz)

Message from Father Bobbin

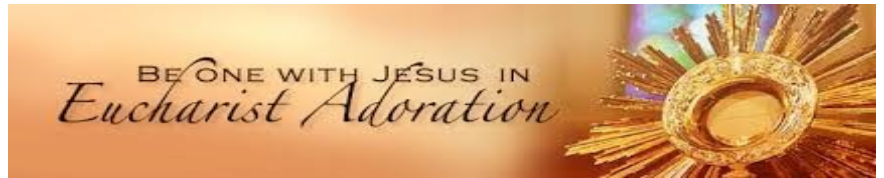
Dear Parishioners,

With Jeremiah, Ezekiel, and Isaiah 40-55, we have reached a climax in our journey through the Old Testament prophets. God's people have learned a hard lesson. They were unfaithful to the covenant with God and, therefore, lost the Promised Land. In 587 BC, Babylon conquered Jerusalem, destroying the Temple, cutting off the kings in the line of David, and exiling many of the people to Babylon.

But God does not give up on His people. He provides a way forward. In 537 BC, just fifty years after the exile began, the Persians conquer Babylon and allow the captured people to return home. The people of Israel migrate back to the Promised Land, rebuild Jerusalem, and eventually rebuild the Temple.

The remaining prophets of the Old Testament lived in this post-exilic period (although some scholars dispute the dating of certain prophets; some may have lived earlier). We will look at each of these prophets after Christmas: Isaiah 56-66, Haggai, Obadiah, Joel, Jonah, Zechariah, Malachi, and Daniel.

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.

Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent

(December 21/22)

Reading I: Micah 5:1-48

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:30-45

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*

Family Matters: World Peace — *Let there be peace on earth, and let it begin with me.* May our families in our parish be a beacon of light and hope that peace can prevail in our communities and throughout the world.

Upcoming Events

December

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
31	5:00 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary Mass Church

January

1	10:00 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary Mass Church
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L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Weekly Collection

December 7/8\$4,819.93
Relig.Retirement Fund ...\$1,027.00

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&2. IMO James & Catherine Smith by Linda & Martin Smith

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Sr. by Hahner Family
2. IMO John Wollyung by Barb Wollyung & Family

Sanctuary

IMO Charles Tamburelli by Francis Tamburfelli

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Anna & Martin Heffron by Paul & Bernie Gombola
2. IMO Mary Anna Heffron, IHM by Paul & Bernie Gombola
- 3&4. IMO Ronald Kriston by Joan Grapsy Family

Retired Fund for Religious

Women and Men religious offer gratitude. “Sincere thanks to the donors of the Retirement Fund for Religious. I hope we meet, if not in this world, then in the next,” says Sister Theresa Korycka, 81, of the Sisters Servants of Mary Immaculate. Your gift impacts over 24,000 senior women and men religious, providing them a dignified retirement. To learn how your donation helps, visit retiredreligious.org.



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.



Flowers at the Altar

The flowers at the altar this weekend are donated
In Memory of
Catherine & James Smith
by
Linda & Martin Smith

Liturgical Min.Schedule

Fourth Sunday of Advent

December 21 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol
Euch.Min.: Heidi Gorski
Gerry Schwartz
Server/Sacristan: Connor Felty
Cantor: Stanley Gorski

December 22— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Heenan
Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin
Mike Ambrose
Servers: Spencer & Michael Prestileo
Cantor: Vincent Prestileo

December 22— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla
Euch.Min.: John Crane
Justina Majestic
Servers: Cooper & Connor Felty
Cantor: Dave Derbes

Thank You ...

We would like to thank *Bob Hahner* and *Eric Lieberman* Luke *Lieberman* and *Gabe Lipton* for removing the flags from the veterans' graves in St John's cemetery in preparation for the winter.

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.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping 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."

JOY

Christmas Mass Schedule

Christmas Eve Masses

Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. (Children's Mass) + 8 p.m.

(Preludes & Carols at 7:30 p.m.)

Christmas Day Mass

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

Solemnity of Mary Masses

Tuesday, December 31 – 5:00 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1—10:00 a.m.



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.

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 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: Tuesday, December 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.

Jubilee Year of Hope

Opening Mass for the Jubilee Year of Hope will be celebrated by Bishop Schlert at the cathedral. All are welcome to the 4:15pm Mass at the cathedral (1825 W. Turner St., Allentown) on **Saturday, December 28** to begin the jubilee year 2025, observed by the universal Church and dedicated to the theme of hope. Each parish is asked to send four representatives. If you are interested, please call the rectory for a special ticket. Representatives are asked to arrive at the cathedral by 4:00 and gather in the Walson Center to participate in a procession to begin the Mass. There will be a light reception after Mass.

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



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

Thank You Dept.

On behalf of the clients, staff and board of directors, thank you for your generous donation and support of Servants to All, a program serving the poor and homeless of Schuylkill County. Your donation will make an immediate difference in the lives of the individuals we serve. We can never thank you enough for your generosity, and we could truly never do this work without you.

With Sincere Gratitude, Servants to All—My Father’s House

P.S. Thank you for the beautiful handmade blankets for the homeless in our community.

We are grateful for all you do. God bless, Jeanette



Nativity 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 4, 2024. We met our goal and collected 35 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 2025-2026 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 2025-2026 school year at Nativity is scheduled for Sunday, January 26, 2025 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 19, 2024 @ 7 PM at the school. Please join us for this special event!

HELP NEEDED

My name is Anthony J. Gaburick. I suffer from a nerve disease that requires treatments for me to stay functional. My treatments are out of town in places such as Allentown, West Hazleton, Wilkes-Barre and Wyomissing. I’m looking for drivers who can help me get to these treatments. Doctors will not allow me to drive myself to and from treatments. If anyone is interested in driving me, please contact the church rectory. I’ll be very grateful for your help!

December 15, 2024

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

"I want to be a sanctuary lamp," Samantha, my childhood friend, once remarked. "To be the little flame that reminds everyone, 'God is here.'" In those short phrases, Samantha summarized not only her personal vocation, but also the all-important mission of St. John the Baptist. Like the candle burning before the tabernacle, St. John was not the long-awaited Messiah; his God-given task was to point others to Jesus. We hear this theme of St. John's message expressed repeatedly in today's readings: "The King of Israel, the Lord, is in your midst"; "Great in your midst is the Holy One of Israel!"; "one mightier than I is coming." God himself would soon be among them - indeed, he was already there. Although 2,000 years separate us from St. John the Baptist's ministry, the little flame still burns in the sanctuary to remind us that God has not only come, but he remains *in our midst*. This is cause for rejoicing: the same Jesus to whom John pointed is present among us in the Blessed Sacrament.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Becoming more attuned and attentive to Jesus in the Holy Eucharist - that is, to God in our midst - entails embracing another part of St. John the Baptist's message. In today's Gospel, St. John counsels people from all walks of life to prepare for the coming Messiah by changing their lives. Only by turning away from sin and committing themselves to God will they be able to recognize and follow Christ when he comes. If we desire deeper faith in the Eucharist, our preparation must be similar: we ask God to show us the dusty corners of our souls which we have concealed from his merciful love. Then, confident in his willingness to forgive, we approach him in the sacrament of confession. This is his ardent desire: that, having come among us, he might forgive and heal us. Such is the meaning behind the consoling words of the Prophet Zephaniah in today's first reading: "He will rejoice over you with gladness, and renew you in his love."

SING

*O Christ, whom nations sigh for
Whom priest and prophet long foretold
Come break the captive fetters
Redeem the long-lost fold*



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



*The King of Israel, the LORD,
 is in your midst,
 you have no further misfortune to fear.*

— Zephaniah 3:15b