

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

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.

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent • December 20th, 2020



Established in 1841

Mass Intentions

Monday, December 21

9:00 a.m. James & Emma Burns
(Joe & Ann Burns)

Tuesday, December 22

9:00 a.m. Robert Lotz
(Rita Lotz)

Wednesday, December 23

9:00 a.m. Ted Casey
(Sally & Bill Casey)

Thursday, December 24

All Masses Parish Family of St. John's

Friday, December 25

10:00 a.m. Parish Family of St. John's

Saturday, December 26

5:00 p.m. Kathleen, Matt, & Mark
Norkus
(Norkus Family)

Sunday, December 27

8:15 a.m. Lambert Pauly
(Margaret Pauly)

10:30 a.m. Gerry Mehling
(Mary Beth Harvey)

From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the first reading for this Sunday from the second book of Samuel, the Lord reminds King David that He the Lord chose him. He tells David that a kingdom will be established in his name and endure forever. David worries that the ark of God dwells in a tent. God is not bound by human constraints and He asks us to participate with Him and cooperate with His grace that the Ark of the Covenant and the arc of salvation history may be made available to all.

In the gospel for this Sunday the angel Gabriel tells Mary that she will conceive and bear a Son and the Holy Spirit will be with her. Mary responds, "May it be done to me according to your word." Mary doesn't hesitate to allow the Ark of God to dwell in her.

***"God is not
bound by
human
constraints"***

As we come close to the Feast of Christmas, let us allow the Lord to dwell among us.

Yours in Christ,
Father Dave



Holiday Food Sale

Get your homemade Fish Dinner favorites to-go for this holiday season! Our lump crab cakes are frozen and ready-to-bake (\$5 each), halupkis by the half-dozen (\$6) and dozen (\$12), quarts of macaroni and cheese (\$7), and quarts of our clam chowder (\$8) are available after Mass until sellout at the Russell Building.

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 • Isabelle Myers

For Our Deceased

Noel Glunz



Next Week's Readings

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph
(December 26/27)

Reading I: Genesis 15:1-6; 21:1-3

Reading II: Hebrews 11:8, 11-12, 17-19

Gospel: Luke 2:22-40

ENTRANCE

274

O COME, O COME, EMMANUEL

Verses

1. O come, O come, Em - man - u - el,
 2. O come, O Wis - dom from on high,

1. And ran - som cap - tive is - ra - el,
 2. Who or - dered all things might i - ly;

1. That mourns in lone - ly ex - ile here
 2. To us the path of knowl - edge show,

1. Un - til the Son of God ap - pear.
 2. And teach us in her ways to go.

Refrain

Re - joice! Re - joice! Em - man u - el
 Shall come to you, O is - ra - el!

RESPONSORIAL PSALM

¶. For - ev - er I will sing the good - ness of the Lord.

OFFERTORY

472

SING OF MARY

1. Sing of Ma - ry, pure and low - ly, Vir - gin 'Moth - er un - de -
 2. Sing of Je - sus, son of Ma - ry, In the home at Naz - a -

1. filed. Sing of God's own Son most ho - ly, Who be - came her
 2. reth. Toil and la - bor can - not wea - ry Love en - dur - ing

1. lit - tle child. Fair - est child of fair - est moth - er,
 2. un - to death. Con - stant was the love he gave her,

1. God the Lord who came to earth, Word made flesh, our
 2. Though he - went forth from her side, Forth to preach and

1. ver - y broth - er, Takes our na - ture by his birth.
 2. heal and suf - fer, Till on Cal - va - ry he died.



Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

December 20, 2020

Fourth Sunday of Advent

2 Sm 7:1-5, 8B-12, 14A, 16 | Rom 16:25-27 | Lk 1:26-38

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

During Advent, we await the One who is perfect grace, light, and joy. The Christ Child's arrival during a time when darkness has been increasing each day, and our anticipation of that arrival, emphasize his salvific role. For if even the smallest light is a glimmer of hope in the night, how much more is Christ's perfect and all-consuming light a life-saving flare in the darkness of sin and death. As we hear the angel Gabriel say of Christ, in his visitation to Mary: "He will be great and will be called Son of the Most High ... and of his kingdom there will be no end." Emmanuel, God with us, is the reason for our hope, and the reason for our joy.

GO EVANGELIZE | PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I don't know about you, but despite my best intentions, I have been known to get a little swallowed up in the commercialism of Christmas. But this last week of Advent feels like a chance to reorder my mind and heart. One way to do this is by focusing on the "O Antiphons," prayed during the Church's evening prayer from December 17-23. Each antiphon begins with the word "O," and is followed by a title for the Messiah, found in Scripture, and a petition for him to come and save his people. Although this may sound overly complicated, you most likely know of these without realizing it: they have been transposed into the verses of the hymn, *O Come, O Come, Emmanuel*. Today's first reading speaks of David, who thought he could build a place for God to dwell, but he can't. Instead, for us, whom God created and fashioned in his own image, God created a dwelling for his Son, so that he might enter into our human history as one of us; and in doing so, dwell among us and within us forever. Come, Lord Jesus.

RECESSIONAL

287

THE ADVENT OF OUR KING



1. The ad-vent of our King Our thoughts must now em-ploy;
2. The co-e-ter-nal Son A maid-en's off-spring see;
3. Daugh-ter of Si-on rise To greet thine in-fant King;



1. Then let us meet him on the road With songs of ho-ly joy.
2. A ser-vant's form Christ put-teth on, To set his peo-ple free.
3. Nor let thy stub-born heart de-spise The par-don he doth bring.

Upcoming Events

December

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	4:00 p.m.	Confession	Church
21	7:00 p.m.	Confession	Church
22	6:00 p.m.	Confession	Church
24		Christmas Eve Masses (2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.)	
25	10:00 a.m.	Christmas Day Mass	
31	5:15 p.m.	Vigil Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	

January

1	10:00 a.m.	Holy Day Mass for Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God	
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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



Weekly Collection

December 12/13.....\$ 5,709.13

Religious Retirement\$ 970.00

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.

Additional Advent Confession times will be offered this Sunday, Monday, and Tuesday

Retirement Fund for Religious

“We are conscious of the great generosity of the many benefactors who support the Retirement Fund for Religious each year,” says a Catholic sister. “Support from the fund has been a tremendous blessing to our retired sisters.” Thank you for donating to last week’s second collection.



2021 Calendars

2021 church calendars sponsored by the James E. Humphrey Funeral Home are now available for pickup in Church. Please feel free to take one but make sure that they are not wasted.

Candle Donations

BVM	IMO Cathy Bowers (Joan Bowers)
St. Joseph	IMO Charles Bowers (Joan Bowers)
Tabernacle	IMO Dorhty & Leo Lotz (Ron & Pat Lombel)
Sanctuary	IMO Scott Bowers IMO Lorraine & John Tasso IMO Debbie Bowers IMO Christine Bowers (Joan Bowers)
Guardian Angels	Special Intentions (2)

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.