

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

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

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot / Lawrence Lonergan*

**FOURTH SUNDAY OF ADVENT
DECEMBER 22, 2019**

Rectory (570) 622-5470
Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589
Russell Building (570) 628-3002
Website – SaintJohnPottsville.org.

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*
Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*
CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*
E-mail – stjbparish@comcast.net

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110
Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106
St. Joseph Center for Special Learning (570) 622-4638

Weekend Mass Schedule

Saturday Evening – 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

Weekday Mass Schedule (in Chapel)

Monday thru Friday – 9:00 a.m.

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.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sacrament of Reconciliation

Saturday afternoon – 4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday – 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 at 11:30 a.m.
Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass
Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST** precede the Baptism
Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Outreach Program

Rectory (570)-622-5470

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

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

Diocesan Safe Environment Coordinator

Sister Meg Cole, S.S.J., M.S., LMFT
(610) 332-0442 ext. 2019

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

The readings for the fourth Sunday of Advent remind us that in Christ Jesus God has been faithful to the promises He has made to his chosen people.

The prophet Isaiah has a sign for Israel. The virgin shall conceive, and bear a Son who will embody God's redemptive presence with His people.

St. Paul recalling his own apostolic calling, writes that the Gentiles are also called to belong to Jesus Christ. In the gospel, the Lord's angel comes to Joseph in a dream and reveals the circumstances of Mary's pregnancy and what this means. Joseph obeys the angel's commands

Our salvation in Christ is how we are reconciled back to God who created us and loves us.

As we gather to celebrate the Christmas Season, may the birth of our Savior be a sign of new hope for all people and that the light of God's love will radiate in the words and deeds of all who believe in Jesus as God and Savior.

Merry Christmas to all!

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday – December 23 – 9:00 a.m.

JAMES & EMMA BURNS (Joe & Ann Burns)

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CHRISTMAS EVE

Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. - PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S
(Preludes 3:30 pm)

6 p.m. - PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S
(Children's Mass)

10 p.m. - PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S
(Carols 9:30 pm)

CHRISTMAS DAY

Wednesday - December 25

10 a.m. - PARISHIONERS OF ST. JOHN'S

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Thursday – December 26 – 9:00 a.m.

CHARLES TAMBURELLI (Helen Weiss)

Friday, December 27 – 9:00 a.m.

GERRY MEHLING (Mary Beth Harvey)

Saturday, December 28 – 5:00 p.m.

KATHY, MATT, MARK NORKUS (Norkus Family)

Sunday, December 29 – 8:15 a.m.

FRANCIS TRABOSH (Pat Trabosh)

Sunday, December 29 – 10:30 a.m.

JOHN HELLER (John & Joyce Gerace)

SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE

4:00 p.m. – Tuesday – December 24th

Reader: Patty O'Neill

Euch.Min.: Carol Lasco, Debbie Guers, Mary Modesto, Carol Forster, Sharon Snyder, Phil Markovich

Servers: Dylan Schreffler, Logan, Joseph, Brooke Palko

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

6:00 p.m. Tuesday – December 24th

Reader: Jennifer Daubert

Euch.Min.: George Forney, Brian Forney

Servers: Jackson Daubert, Samantha Heenan, Joshua Steffan, Elly Forney

Cantor: Ensemble

10:00 p.m. Tuesday – December 24th

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Hermine & Danny Murphy

Servers: Cooper Chiplonia, Evelyn Datte, Ryan & Emma Seiger

Cantor: Tina Seiger

CHRISTMAS DAY

10:00 a.m. Wednesday – December 25th

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose

Servers: Ava Orłowsky, Stanley & Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Melody Newhard-Kirk

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HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

5 p.m. – Saturday – December 28th

Reader: Mary Ann Schweikert

Euch.Min.: Molly Zwiebel, Bobby Rienzo

Servers: Lauren, Kelly & Megan Goodman

Cantor: Mary Bound

8:15 a.m. – Sunday – December 29th

Reader: Tyler Cooper

Euch.Min.: Ray Petrilla, Nicholas Quinn

Servers: Vincent, Spencer & Michael Prestileo

Cantor: Debbie Purcell

10:30 a.m. – Sunday – December 29th

Reader: Susan Hahner

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic, Sharon Snyder

Servers: Madison Ryan, Riley Doyle, Macie Rushannon

Cantor: Dave Derbes

MEN'S GOSPEL REFLECTION GROUP

Men's Gospel Reflection Group meeting will take place on **Tuesdays from 7 to 8 p.m. in the Rectory Fellowship Room.** This group is open to any men interested in reflecting on how the Gospel impacts their lives. All are welcome! Please call the Rectory 570-622-5470 with any questions.

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM - IMO Jane Sunday by Don & Joanne Doyne

St. Joseph - IMO Janet Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne

Tabernacle – Special Intention

Sanctuary

1. IMO Charlie Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer

2. IMO Catherine Schaeffer by Maria Schaeffer

3. IMO Charles & Matilda Schaeffer

by Eleanor Schaeffer

4. Living & Deceased of the Catholic Women's Union

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Donald & Nancy Doyne by Don & Joanne Doyne

2. IMO Josephine & Frank Brozana

by Don & Joanne Doyne

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes. **Sick:** *Doug Broughton.*

WANTED

GREETERS FOR THE MINISTRY OF HOSPITALITY.

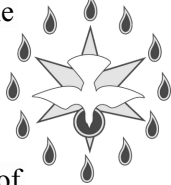
No experience necessary. On the job training provided.

Prerequisites include: an interest in serving your parish community, 10-15 minutes before Mass arrival and the desire to help St. John's become an *Amazing Parish.*

If this sounds like you, please contact the rectory (570) 622-5470 or Parish Leadership Team member.

CONFIRMATION PRAYER SPONSORS

Our 8th graders are preparing to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation on **Wednesday, April 29, 2020.** Please consider supporting this important decision by praying for one or more candidates. Cards containing the names of the candidates are located on the table in back of church. Please take one and during this time of preparation, please pray for that person in a special way and write notes of encouragement. Our parish will be doubly blessed!



Next Week's Readings

THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY, AND

JOSEPH (December 28/29)

Reading I: Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14

Reading II: Colossians 3:12-21

Gospel: Matthew 2:13-15, 19-23

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can the coming celebration of Christmas nourish your holiness?

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

CHRISTMAS EVE MASSES

Tuesday, December 24

4 p.m. + (6 p.m. Children's Mass) + 10 p.m.

(Preludes & Carols at 9:30 p.m.)

CHRISTMAS DAY MASS

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

FEAST OF THE HOLY FAMILY MASSES

Saturday, December 28 – 5:00 p.m.

Sunday, December 29 – 8:15 & 10:30 a.m.

SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASSES

Tuesday, December 31 – 5:15 p.m.

Wednesday, January 1 – 10:00 a.m. only

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Monday December 23 7:00 to 8:00 p.m.

FAMILY MATTERS

Christmas Time – the true meaning. Jesus is the reason for the season. During this Christmas time commit yourself to sharing the true meaning of Christmas with your family. God shared His love fully by becoming human. We too can share His love by being Christ to one another. May God bless you and your family during this season of good will.

You pray for my family and I'll pray for yours.

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 CAROLING

Everyone is welcome! Come as a family...bring your friends...all ages. We'll gather in Longinus Hall on **Sunday, December 22nd at 2:00p.m.** for refreshments. Children and teens are encouraged to participate. This is a great way to get into the Christmas spirit and bring Christmas joy to others. No registration; please arrive at Longinus Hall by 2:15.



FAMILY GUILD GIFT CARD CALENDAR

The Family Guild will be sponsoring the Gift Card Calendar Raffle for March 2020. The members of the Guild would like to extend the opportunity to all parishioners to sponsor any type of Gift Card or make a monetary donation to purchase a gift card. If you are interested, please call the Rectory 622-5470.



Those who have donated to date:

Beehive Salon
DiCello Chiropractic
Guzick Family
William Hauptly Electrical & Plumbing
Headquarters Styling Salon
Heenan Family
Kochol Family
Charles & Patricia Miller
Bob & Mary Porter
Carole Quirin
Rosenberger Plumbing & Heating Inc.
Ralph & Joanne Wood
Ellen & Jay Zane

WEEKLY COLLECTION

December 14/15: \$ 4,070.25

Immaculate Conception: \$ 1,245.00

Retired Religious: \$ 1,466.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving.

RETIREMENT FUND FOR RELIGIOUS

Religious give thanks. "Thank you" hardly seems adequate to convey what it means to us," says a Catholic sister of the financial assistance her community received from the Retirement Fund for Religious. Prayer-filled thanks for your donation to last week's second collection.

RECTORY CHRISTMAS DECORATIONS



All are welcome to stop by the Rectory during office hours on weekdays to see the beautiful Christmas tree and decorations.

When they had departed, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to Joseph in a dream and said, "Rise, take the Child and His mother, flee to Egypt, and stay there until I tell you..." Joseph rose and took the Child and His mother y night and departed for Egypt.

... Matthew 2:13-14

CHRISTMAS COOKIE SALE – THANK You

The members of St. John's Catholic Women's Union would like to thank everyone who donated cookies or gave monetary donations, and those who supported us by purchasing treats at our 11th Annual Christmas Cookie Sale held December 14/15. The Christmas spirit of giving came through with the wonderful generosity of those who donated cookies. The fundraiser was a huge success. Thank you to the women on the Cookie Committee who gave of their time at this busy season and also anyone who worked at the sale. We are a small group of women, but we are mighty and strong in our efforts to raise money for the church.

Wishing you a Blessed and Joyous New Year.

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

St. John's ENSEMBLE

The purpose of this ministry is to serve the parish at Mass, singing liturgical hymns, using contemporary instruments like the guitar, keyboard, drums or other instruments, and using contemporary music arrangements.

We invite ANYONE in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. Practices will be one or, at most, twice a month for ONE HOUR, to prepare for music at Mass that week. This is a great way to participate in parish life and have fun with only a small commitment of your time.

Why not give it a try and give back to your parish family by sharing the gifts God has given to you?

If interested call the Rectory 622-5470.

DIOCESAN NEWS & EVENTS

MARRIAGE ENCOUNTER God gave us his greatest gift of love when He sent His only son, JESUS, into the world. Experience a deeper love in your marriage by attending a Worldwide Marriage Encounter weekend. For information call 610-449-1859 or visit www.wwme.org.

2020 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.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

Lord-Bixler Funeral Home, Inc.
1818 Mahantongo Street
Pottsville, PA 17901
570-622-0230
Terry L. Bixler, Supv.

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

- * It's inexpensive Advertising
- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Own Neighborhood
- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good For Developing Loyal Customers

STEWARDSHIP LIBRARY

Stewardship Displays are located at the church exits. There are many items available including CD's, Rosaries, Self-help and Informational Booklets, etc.

New Items include: Music (lower door); Divine Mercy (main church), in addition to other great CD's or books.

FROM OUR PARISH NURSE ... Another reason to maintain a healthy weight: Being overweight in midlife may accelerate aging in the brain, according to a study in *Neurology*, which included 1,289 middle-aged and older adults (average age 64). Those with a higher body mass index (BMI) and waist circumference at the start of the study were more likely to have greater thinning in the brain's cortex region than those with lower body weight, as assessed by an MRI scan six years later. Having a thinner cortex has been linked with an increased risk of Alzheimer's disease. The more overweight the individual, the greater the average amount of thinning; that was especially true for obese people (BMI of 30 or higher), among whom every unit increase in BMI was associated with a 0.2 millimeter thinner cortex. (For context, the cortex thins between 0.01 and 0.1 millimeter per decade in normal aging adults.) BMI and waist circumference were associated with cortical thinning even after the researchers controlled for other factors that can affect the brain, including high blood pressure, alcohol use, and smoking.

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."

NATIVITY BVM HIGH SCHOOL

SURF & TURF BINGO sponsored by the Green and Gold Booster Club on **Sunday, January 5th** at the high school. Doors open 11:30 a.m.; Bingo begins at 1 p.m. Cost is \$20.00. Refreshments available. Questions call Nativity BVM at 570-622-8110.

MARCH FOR LIFE

Join pro-life America at the **2020 March for Life** to be a voice for the voiceless! It's not too early to start thinking about attending the March for Life in Washington DC. It will be held **Friday January 24th 2020**. Teens are especially encouraged to attend! Bus will leave from St Ambrose. For more information contact Dana Seisler or Heather Smalley or St Ambrose rectory 570-385-1031

OPEN ARMS MINISTRY

If you have good used furniture that you would like to donate, *Open Arms Ministry* is in need for these items for their transitional housing. If you would like more information about this organization, check out their website at www.openarmshelp.org, or email Pastor Vincent Murray at Oathmainoffice@gmail.com.

ARE YOU PLANNING A CHANGE ??



If you are making a change in ... *address, parish affiliation, e-mail, or phone number*, please call the Rectory

Office. We strive to keep our records up to date.

BULLETIN BOOSTERS

December 2019

IMO Carl Bartholomew	M/M James Loeper
IMO Harold Bartholomew	IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Robert Berger	IMO Felix & Agnes Narog
IMO Edward Christ	Dorothy Parsick
Mildred A. Fredericks	IMO Jeanne Rehnert
Fr. Don Henry	IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert
IMO M/M Herbert Henry	IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
IMO Joanne Hepler	Marcie Schnerring
IMO Clare Houser	IMO Stephen Sitkus
IMO Francis King	IMO Margaret Zelinsky

Living & Deceased of St. John's CYO Program

What is a Bulletin Booster?? Some of our newer parishioners have asked what it means to be a Bulletin Booster. We have a wonderful bulletin – it is timely and keeps us informed of what is going on within our parish family and its surroundings. Paper and supplies are needed on a weekly basis to continue this family

tradition. So, if you'd like to donate toward the supplies.

\$1.00 and up ... you too can be a ... Bulletin Booster

CHRISTMAS BAZAAR – THANK YOU

The cold, chilly temperatures were just the right feel for our Annual Christmas Bazaar. The Bazaar was filled with many beautiful crafts, baked goods, and theme baskets. There was definitely something for everyone. A big thank you goes out to our Christmas Bazaar Committee who works very hard throughout the year to make sure that the Bazaar is always something special. This year was no different. The Bazaar was another great success. The hours they spend in coordinating various volunteers and crafts, putting together over 80 themed baskets made this annual event run very smoothly and well planned.

A very special thank you to **Ann Marie DeFrank** and our Food Committee. They did a fantastic job preparing the food items for the Bazaar. They made sure everyone's appetite was met. A special shout out to those who helped with the preparation of the food and transported the food back and forth to the Russell Building and Longinus Hall. Everything was done to perfection and in a timely manner.

Finally, let us not forget all those who donated any items, baskets, gift cards, monetary donations, crafts, served the food, and helped to set up and take down Longinus Hall. And, of course, all those who patronized the Bazaar. To you a very special thanks cause without YOU the Bazaar would not be what it is. Also, a special thanks to Santa Claus. He definitely put us in the Christmas spirit! May God's blessings be with you all. Again, thank you for all your hard work and support.

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.

St. John's Christmas Bazaar Committee

Special thanks to ...

- The **Sponsors** who generously supported our efforts.
- The **Bakers** who made all the delicious treats.
- **Everyone** who helped in the kitchen preparing food.
- **Everyone** who donated those beautiful **Themed Baskets**.
- **Everyone** who donated the many **Gift Cards & Lottery Tickets**.
- **Everyone** who donated the very generous **Specials**.
- The **volunteers** who worked at the Bazaar.
- The **volunteers** who helped to transport the food and supplies.
- **John & Chrissy Eagan** for making the Santa pictures such a success.
- **Students** from Assumption BVM School for carrying the baskets and supplies to church.
- **Guers Dairy** for their donation of the ice tea products.
- **Carl & Tony Wiest** for their donation of the cakes which were chanced off.
- **All** who attended the Bazaar and supported it in any way.

2019 Christmas Bazaar

Profits

\$ 8,934.29

Our Many Volunteers

Chris Black	Tom Gordon	Charlene Leshner	Carole Quirin	Natalie Setlock
Kate Blackwell	Mary Beth Harvey	Emma Lieberman	Reene Reddington	Rosann Sitkus
Mary Bound	Tom Heenan	Eric Lieberman	Mike Rizzardi	Linda Smith
Ann Burns	Lilly Heinbach	Mary Lipton	Eleanor Schaeffer	Martin Smith
Cooper Chiplonia	Debbie Herb	Frances Lorenz	Joanie Scheetz	Dave Steffan
Nora Chiplonia	Paul Herb	Patty Markovich	Missy Scheetz	Josh Steffan
John Consugar	Sue Jochems	Bennett McNamara	Pat Scheetz	Dianne Stoudt
Allie Darhun	Maeve Ketner	Bernadine McNamara	Sue Scheetz	Luis R. Visot
Michelle Darhun	Pat Klassen	Connor McNamara	Barbara Schoenauer	Toni Wiest
Janet Daubert	Lucille Kochol	Kevin McNamara	Adrienne Schreffler	Carl Wiest
Joan Deiter	Joe Kurtek	Pattie Miller	Dylan Schreffler	Joanne Wood
Millie Fredericks	Maureen Kurtek	Barbara Munster	Gerry Schwartz	Ralph Wood
Noah Fredericks	Pat Kutch	Eleanor Orzechowski	Emma Seiger	Mary Xenophon
Karla Garland	Carol Lasco	Joe Orzechowski	Ryan Seiger	Carmel Yingling
Kelly Goodman	Bernie Lecher	Jason Prestileo	Tina Seiger	

Our Bakers

Kate Blackwell	Marie Flynn	Bernie Lecher	Barb Munster	Sue Scheetz
Nora Chiplonia	Millie Fredericks	Frances Lorenz	Mary Porter	Natalie Setlock

Michelle Darhun
Joan Deiter

Sue Jochems
Pat Kutch

Hilda Maley
Maria McMurtrie

Carole Quirin
Missy Scheetz
Pat Scheetz

Rosann Sitkus
Janet Thomas
Mary Xenophon

***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!***