

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 22, 2024 • Fourth Sunday of Advent

Love



Advent

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, December 23

6:30 p.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Christmas Eve

Tuesday, December 24

4:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

8:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Christmas Day

Wednesday, December 25

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

Thursday, December 26 — NO MASS

Friday, December 27 — NO MASS

Saturday, December 28

5:00 p.m. Mary Ellen Cross
(Lou Cross & Marlo Lipko)

Sunday, December 29

8:15 a.m. Paul Filiac
(David & Janet Rajchel)

Sunday, December 29

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

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

As we begin our celebration of Christmas in a few days, I would like to pause our bulletin series on the Bible to express my appreciation for everyone involved in liturgical ministries and maintaining our beautiful church:

Deacon Reiley, for his pastoral ministry to our parish;

Our lectors and extraordinary ministers of the Eucharist, who bring us our Lord's Word and presence in Holy Communion with dignity and reverence; the extraordinary ministers who assist me in bringing the Eucharist to some of our homebound parishioners;

Our sacristans and altar servers, for the assistance they provide at every liturgy;

Dave Derbes, our cantors, choir members, ensemble, and all members of our music ministry, whose efforts and talents are integral to our Sunday worship;

Our ministers of hospitality, who help create a welcoming environment and assist in various ways;

Mary Bound, Sandy Frinzi, and all who assist with decorating and keeping our church neat and organized; Ed Brahler and his assistants, our volunteer church cleaning crew;

The members of our prayer team, for their ministry to fellow parishioners and guests;

In addition to everyone involved in liturgical ministries and caring for the church, I am grateful to our parish staff and all of the leaders and volunteers involved in religious ed, parish events, groups, and activities.

I pray that this Christmas season and the new year ahead of us will be a time of many blessings and growth for you and for our parish family.

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

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
(December 28/29)

Reading I: 1 Samuel 1:20-22, 24-28

Reading II: 1 John 3:1-2, 21-24

Gospel: Luke 2:41-52

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

Upcoming Events

December

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
5	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
5	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
12	9:00 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting	L.H.
19	10:30 a.m.	Sunday School.....	L.H.
19	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class.....	L.H.
26	9:00 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg	L.H.

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

Tuesdays 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group F.R.

Candles

BVM

1. Special Intention
2. IMO Marie Majestic
by Hughes Family

St. Joseph

1. Special Intention
by Keith & Mary Jo Laslow
2. IMO Carl & Ada Hahner
by Children—Dorothy, Butch, Lois,
Carolyn & Bob

Sanctuary

IMO Ericka Stangl Seasock
by Dorothy & Joe Stangl
& Michael Felker

Guardian Angels

1. IMO JoAnn Heller
by Barb Wollyung
2. IMO Al Majestic
by Hughes Family
- 3&4. IMO Robert Lotz
by Rita Lotz

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, Joseph

December 28 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: John Crane
Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy
Server/Sacristan: R.J. Post
Cantor: Lucilla Kochol

December 29— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose
Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose
Justina Majestic
Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman
Cantor: Dave Derbes

December 29— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Vince Balulis
Euch.Min.: Janet Daubert
Ray Petrilla
Servers: Spencer & Michael Prestileo
Cantor: Marianne Wollyung



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 23—12:00 to 1:00 p.m.



thank you

Thank you to the Catholic Women's Union for their generous Christmas donation. We will use this year's donation to help us purchase new dining room chairs for the Russell Building.

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.

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 worshipping 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.

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!

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.



St. John's Crèche

This sketch by the late Dr. David Marshall depicts St. John's Crèche. It was made of hand-carved wood in the 1870's and shipped to Pottsville from Southern Germany. It is a beautiful and priceless treasure of our parish.

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.

The Nativity

The tradition of having a Nativity scene or “crèche” was made popular by St. Francis of Assisi. It is a reproduction of the cave in Bethlehem with Mary, Joseph, and the infant Jesus in a manger, shepherds, angels, and animals. Each night during Advent, children are encouraged to place in the manger one piece of straw for each good deed done that day by a family member. This Advent tradition combines the spirit of conversion and the coming of Jesus. There is a blessing ceremony provided by the Church in the Book of Blessings for the crèche.

Christmas

“The Word became Flesh and made His dwelling among us, and we have seen His glory: The glory of an only Son coming from the Father, filled with enduring love.” (John 1:14)

The word Christmas was derived from the Old English Cristes Maesse or “Mass of Christmas.” Over the centuries it has become a comprehensive word including both the religious traditions and the secular traditions.

In North America, the early immigrants brought their different Christmas traditions. The Germans brought the Christmas tree, the Irish contributed the lights in windows of homes, Catholic immigrants brought Midnight Mass and everyone had their own Christmas carols.

Christmas is a time of visiting, giving, helping and sharing. Christmas is a special feast for those who provide these and other services in their community. Parishioners are asked to reflect on the people and the circumstances of the first Christmas. Whenever we recall the Nativity story, we are inspired by the birth of Jesus in such poor and difficult surroundings. We see the young couple, far from home, expecting a baby. We see crowds coming into town to register for the census. We see inn-keepers and merchants busy with the influx of people. Amidst all the hubbub and the excitement, a child is born.

Finding Christ

Poor shepherds were the first to hear about the birth of Jesus. An angel told them that a child was born and was to be found in a lowly manger wrapped in swaddling clothes. The shepherds hurried over to Bethlehem to see the Baby. Perhaps they brought some of the simple food they had to share. Later, Magi from the East travelled a great distance in search of the Child. They too, brought gifts to the “newborn king” – the one born in such a humble setting.

Finding Christ was not a difficult thing to do. Those sincerely searching for Him were guided along the way. Jesus made it very clear where He could be found. Among the poor, the needy, and the outcasts is where he lived His life. He fed the people who came to listen to Him teach. He healed those who suffered. While Jesus lived on earth, anyone looking for Jesus knew where He could be found.

This Christmas, if you are looking for Jesus, you know where He can be found. He is no longer a Baby in a manger. That Child is the Jesus who grew up and lived among the lowly and the humble. He worked and prayed with sinners and with those who needed healing and instruction. He told people, “Whatever you do for the least of these, you do for me.” If you are looking for Christ this Christmas, you know where to go.

Blessing of the Christmas Meal

Abba, Father, we gather at this table to celebrate the joy of Jesus' birth. We rejoice at being together and remember those who are distant; we recall with love those who have died. We thank you for the gift each of us is to the other (family members name some special trait of other members, or something special one member has done for another since last Christmas). Hold us close to you and to each other, and help us to share your love with all we meet. We pray this in the name of Jesus, born this day. Amen.

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.

Prayer for Vocations

Heavenly Father, Lord of the harvest, call forth vocations to the priesthood and consecrated life from our diocese and our families. Inspire men to imitate Christ, the Eternal High Priest, in sacrificial service to your Church. Move the hearts of men and women to offer themselves wholly to You in poverty, chastity and obedience. Send them as laborers for Your harvest. Inspire the faithful to support them with prayers and sacrifice. Raise up holy families who foster openness to your call. We ask this through Christ Our Lord. Amen.



December 22, 2024

Fourth Sunday of Advent

Mi 5:1-4a | Heb 10:5-10 | Lk 1:39-45

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Ask a child, “Where is God?” and you’ll likely receive a variety of responses: “in heaven,” “in church,” “everywhere” and “in my heart” are all conceivable answers from a child’s lips. But the one we most easily write off as silly or sentimental is one that the saints would urge us to revisit more seriously: God is indeed “in my heart” – that is, he is present in our souls! This is true not only when we receive him in Holy Communion, and not only because he is “everywhere,” but because we possess *sanctifying grace*. Grace is *divine life* – God’s life – and if we are “in a state of grace” (that is, we have brought any mortal sins to confession), we have this life within us! Our model for becoming aware of this wonderful gift is our Blessed Mother, whose example in today’s Gospel teaches us to love, reverence, and obey God within us. Setting out “in haste” to serve her aged cousin, Mary carried God in her womb. We can imagine the love and joy with which she carried him. At every moment, God is present in us, too (not physically, but by grace) and we should strive to recognize and love him who has made our hearts his dwelling place.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

The events of today’s Gospel suggest that Jesus’ presence in Mary is not *for* Mary alone. Prompted by love, she made the arduous journey to visit Elizabeth – itself an act of charity. But Mary brought more than her services and support to Elizabeth during a potentially difficult pregnancy; she brought God himself! Mary was so conscious of God within her that even her words, flowing from a heart burning with his love, carried a special power; at Mary’s greeting, Elizabeth was “filled with the Holy Spirit” and John the Baptist “leaped for joy.” As we become increasingly aware of God dwelling in our souls, we, too, become “Christ-bearers” to others. By being lovingly attentive to our Divine Guest, our words and actions become means by which he can act on the hearts of those we encounter each day.

SING

*O come, divine Messiah!
The world in silence waits the day
When hope shall sing its triumph
And sadness flee away*

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.

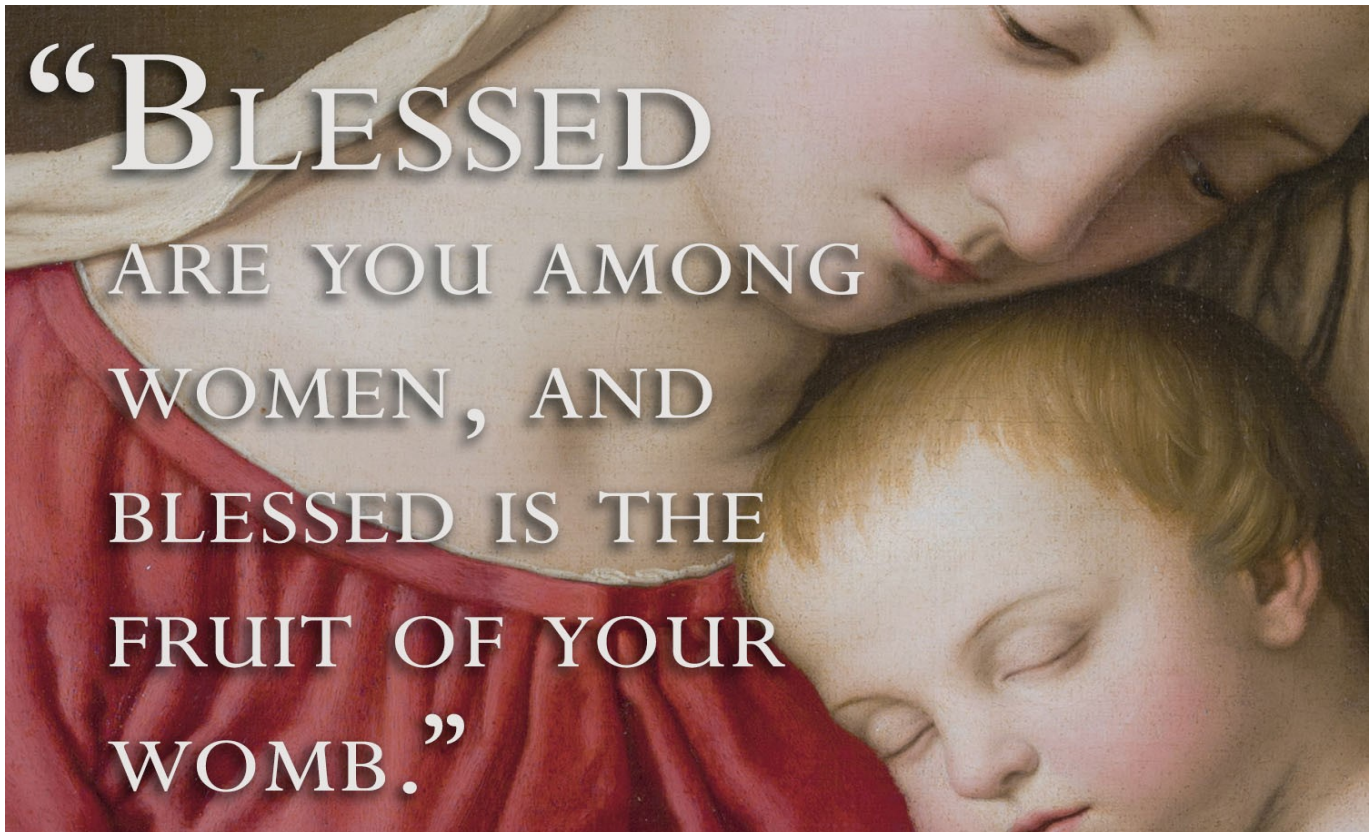
Sacrament of Reconciliation
 Saturdays.....4:15 to 4:45 p.m..
 Sundays..... 7:45 to 8:00 a.m. & 10:00 to 10:15 a.m..
 or by appointment

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



“BLESSED
 ARE YOU AMONG
 WOMEN, AND
 BLESSED IS THE
 FRUIT OF YOUR
 WOMB.”