

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

[www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://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](mailto: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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

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Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph • December 27<sup>th</sup>, 2020

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Established in 1841

## Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Ann Tobin  
(Suzanne & Bill Smith)

### Tuesday, December 29

9:00 a.m. Annette Lieberman  
(Helen Weiss)

### Wednesday, December 30

9:00 a.m. Bertha Bullock

### Thursday, December 31

9:00 a.m. Lucky Mulqueen  
(Pat Mulqueen)  
5:15 p.m. Joseph Rehnert  
(Ron & Pat Lombel)

### Friday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Mary Chipionia  
(M/M David Wartella)

### Saturday, January 2

5:00 p.m. Stephen Kurtek  
(Joey Kurtek)

### Sunday, January 3

8:15 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns  
10:30 a.m. Eugene Gustitis  
(Pat & Allison Elko)

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

The gospels of Christmas Eve and Christmas Day speak to us of a family rejoicing at a child's birth, their lives uniquely affected by God's presence in their midst, responding with faith and trust in their special role in the history of salvation.

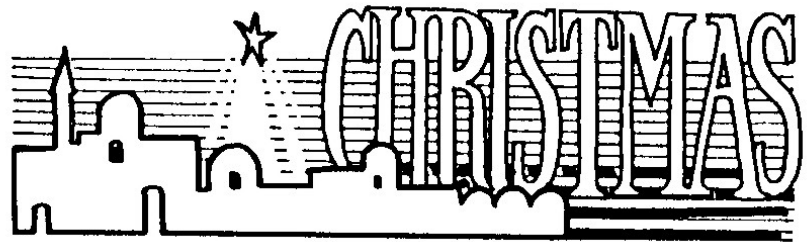
The example of this beautiful Holy Family inspires us as we celebrate Christmas Day and the Christmas Season. As they rejoice at Jesus' birth, so too do we, remembering the new divine life made possible by Jesus' life on earth.

On behalf of Deacon Visot, Deacon Lonergan, our Pastoral Assistant Bobby Rienzo and our Parish Staff, I extend my prayerful best wishes for a Joyous and Blessed Christmas. Even though we were greatly affected by the pandemic COVID 19 over this past year., I am deeply grateful to all of you for all that you have done and accomplished in the life of our parish family. I am very thankful to all of you for your generosity over this past year even though times may have been tough. Even those of you who have not yet ventured back to church because of the pandemic have been so faithful with your generosity to the parish.

I ask your continued prayers for me and I assure you of mine. In the New Year, we who are God's family on this earth may serve Him with gladness and joy. We also pray for a speedy end to this pandemic.

Sincerely in Christ,

*Father Dave*



*"Hold on – we're trying to work this out.  
You're from three different royal households  
and the baby counts as three people already..."*

## Next Week's Readings

Epiphany of the Lord  
(January 2/3)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 60:1-6

**Reading II:** Ephesians 3:2-3a, 5-6

**Gospel:** Matthew 2:1-12

## Pray

### For Our Sick

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.

*Helen Hufnagle*

### A 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. 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.

# Upcoming Events

## December

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

18 7:00 p.m. Adoration/Holy Hour

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



## Candle Donations

**BVM** IMO Josephine Parsick (Joanne Schultz)

**St. Joseph** For Jacqui, Mike & Aiden Kelly (John & Bernice Petock)

**Tabernacle** IMO JoAnn Heller (Joe & Barbara Wollyung)

**Sanctuary** IMO Chris Figueiredo (Dottie Gittleman)

Special Intention

Successful Surgery of ‘D’ (Mary Zambo)

Special Intention

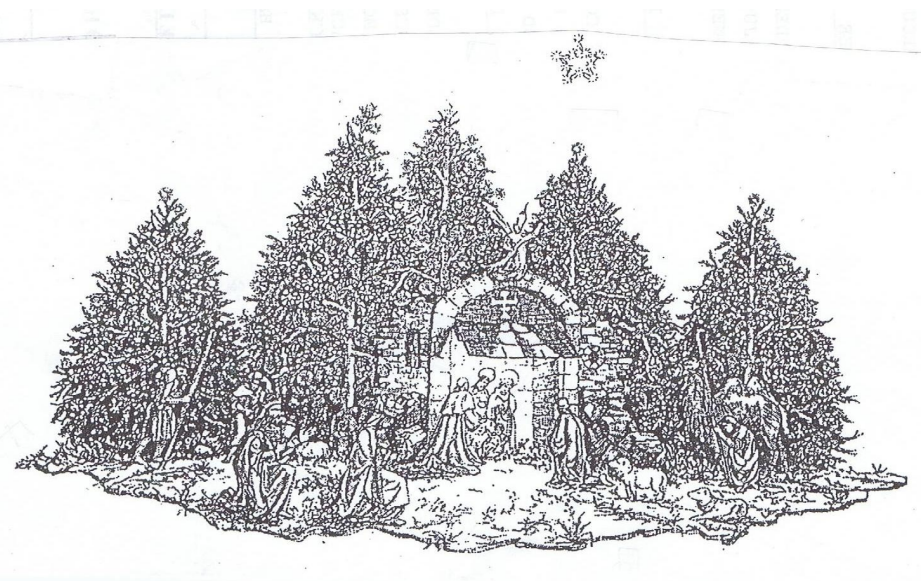
**Guardian Angels** For Jacqui, Mike & Aiden Kelly (John & Bernice Petock)

Special Intention

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 sanctuary arrangement.

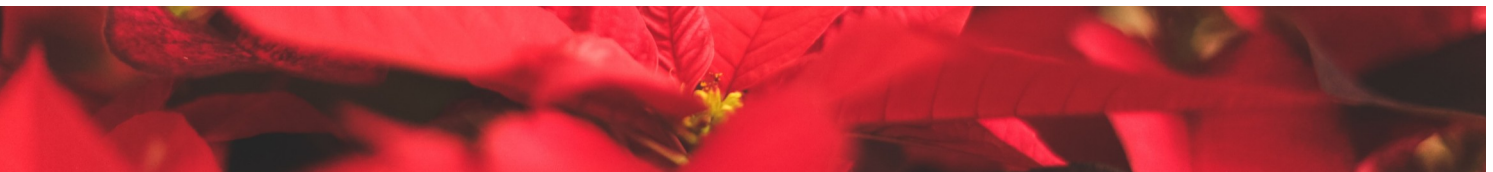
## Catholic Women’s Union

A special thank you to St. John’s Catholic Women’s Union for their generous gift of **\$2,500**. This donation is the result of all their hard work and efforts over this past year.



## 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.



## On the cover

Joanne Kitsock helped decorate the church for Christmas last weekend after 10:30 a.m Mass. Special thanks also to Mary Bound, Lucilla Kochol, and Ed Brahler and his staff for their help in preparing our Church for Christmas.

## Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew  
 IMO Harold Bartholomew  
 IMO Robert Berger  
 IMO Edward Christ  
 Mildred A. Fredericks  
 Fr. Don Henry  
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry  
 IMO Joanne Hepler  
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser  
 IIMO Philomena Loeper  
 MO Charles Lorenz  
 IMO Dorothy Parsick  
 IMO Jeanne Rehnert  
 IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert  
 IMO Dorothy Rosenberger  
 IMO Erika Stangl Seasock  
 IMO Margaret Zelinsky  
 Living & Deceased of St.  
 John's CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our  
 bulletin this month!*

## Cemetery

Thank you Bob Hahner, Coy and  
 Colt Mason and Dominic  
 Rowlands for removing the flags  
 in St. John's Cemetery.



## The Reason for the Season of 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.

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 innkeepers and merchants busy with the influx of people. Amidst all the hubbub and the excitement, a child is born.

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.

## Poetry

### The Work of Christmas Begins

Sharing the Gifts of the Season  
 When the song of the angels is stilled,  
 When the star in the sky is gone,  
 When the kings and the princes are home,  
 When the shepherds are back with their flocks,  
 Then the work of Christmas begins .....

- ... To find the lost
- ... To heal the broken
- ... To feed the hungry
- ... To rebuild the nations
- ... To release the prisoner
- ... To bring peace among people
- ... To make music in the heart.

ENTRANCE

300

## O COME, ALL YE FAITHFUL



1. O come, all ye faith - ful, joy - ful and tri - um - phant, O
2. † God of \_\_\_ God, \_\_\_ Light \_\_\_ of \_\_\_ Light, \_\_\_ †
3. † Sing, choirs of an - gels, sing in ex - ul - ta - tion, †
4. † Yea, Lord, we greet thee, born this hap - py morn - ing, †



1. come ye, O come \_\_\_ ye to Beth - le - hem;
2. Lo! he comes forth \_\_\_ from the Vir - gin's womb.
3. Sing, all ye cit - i - zens of heav'n a - bove!
4. Je - sus, to thee \_\_\_ be all glo - ry giv'n;



1. Come and be - hold him, born the King of an - gels;
2. Our ver - y God, be - got - ten, not cre - a - ted;
3. Glo - ry to God, all glo - ry in the high - est;
4. Word of the Fa - ther, now in flesh ap - pear - ing;

## Refrain



O come, let us a - dore him, O come, let us a - dore him, O  
 Ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve - ní - te, a - do - ré - mus, ve -



come, let us a - dore him, Christ, the Lord!  
 ní - te, a - do - ré - mus Dó - mi - num.

CHRISTMAS EVE

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 96: 1-2, 2-3, 11-12, 13



℣. To - day is born our Sav - ior, Christ the Lord.

CHRISTMAS DAY

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

Psalm 98:1, 2-3, 3-4, 5-6



℣. All the ends of the earth have seen the sav - ing pow - er of God.

## ANGELS WE HAVE HEARD ON HIGH

308

## Verses



1. An - gels we have heard on high Sweet - ly sing - ing o'er the plains,
2. Shep - herds, why this ju - bi - lee? Why your joy - ous strains pro - long?
3. Come to Beth - le - hem and see Him whose birth the an - gels sing;
4. See him in a man - ger laid Whom the an - gels praise a - bove;



1. And the moun - tains in re - ply Ech - o back their joy - ous strains.
2. Say what may the tid - ings be Which in - spire your heav'n - ly song.
3. Come, a - dore on bend - ed knee Christ, the Lord, the new - born King.
4. Ma - ry, Jo - seph, lend your aid, While we raise our hearts in love.

## Refrain



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!



Glo - ri - a in ex - cel - sis De - o!

313

## HARK! THE HERALD ANGELS SING

## Verses



1. Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing: "Glo - ry to the
2. Christ, by high - est heav'n a - dored, Christ, the ev - er -
3. Hail the heav'n - born Prince of Peace! Hail the Sun of



1. new - born King; Peace on earth, and mer - cy mild,
2. last - ing Lord; Late in time, be - hold him come,
3. Righ - teous - ness! Light and life to all he brings,



1. God and sin - ners rec - on - ciled!" Joy - ful, all ye
2. Off - spring of a vir - gin's womb. Veiled in flesh the
3. Ris'n with heal - ing in his wings. Mild he lays his



1. na - tions, rise, Join the tri - umph of the skies; With an -
2. God - head seel Hail th'in - car - nate De - i - ty! Pleased as
3. glo - ry by, Born that we no more may die, Born to



1. gel - ic hosts pro - claim: "Christ is born in Beth - le - hem!"
2. man with us to dwell; Je - sus, our Em - man - u - ell
3. raise us from the earth, Born to give us sec - ond birth.

## Refrain



Hark! the her - ald an - gels sing, "Glo - ry to the new - born King."

## 330

## WHAT CHILD IS THIS



1. What child is this, who, laid to rest, On Ma-ry's lap is
2. Why lies he in such mean es - tate Where ox and ass are
3. So bring him in - cense, gold, and myrrh, Come peas-ant, king, to



1. sleep - ing? Whom an - gels greet with an - thems sweet, While
2. feed - ing? Good Chris - tian, fear: for sin - ners here The
3. own him; The King of kings sal - va - tion brings, Let



1. shep - herds watch are keep - ing? This, this is Christ the
2. si - lent Word is plead - ing.
3. lov - ing hearts en - throne him.



King, Whom shep-herds guard and an - gels sing; Haste,



haste to bring him laud, the babe, the son of Ma - ry.

## 303

## JOY TO THE WORLD



1. Joy to the world! the Lord is come; Let earth re -
2. Joy to the world! the Sav - ior reigns; Let us our
3. No more let sins and sor - rows grow, Nor thorns in -
4. He rules the world with truth and grace, And makes the



1. ceive, her King; Let ev - 'ry heart pre - pare him
2. songs em - ploy; While fields and floods, rocks, hills and
3. fest the ground; He comes to make his bless - ings
4. na - tions prove The glo - ries of his righ - teous -



1. room, And heav'n and na - ture sing, And heav'n and na - ture
2. plains Re - peat the sound - ing joy, Re - peat the sound - ing
3. flow Far as the curse is found, Far as the curse is
4. ness, And won - ders of his love, And won - ders of his



1. sing, And heav'n, and heav'n and na - ture sing.
2. joy, Re - peat, re - peat the sound - ing joy.
3. found, Far as, far as the curse is found.
4. love, And won - ders, won - ders of his love.