

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 29, 2024

FEAST OF *The Holy Family*



The Holy Family
by Joseph Paelinck © Diocesan
circa 1820

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, December 30 — NO MASS

Solemnity of Mary

Tuesday, December 31

5:00 p.m. Charles Bowers
(Anne & Francis Holley)

Wednesday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Thursday, January 2

9:00 a.m. Jerry Hudock
(Evelyn Herchold)

Friday, January 3

9:00 a.m. Kermit J. Wegner
(Dirk, Jennifer, Rex Berger)

Saturday, January 4

5:00 p.m. Harold Bercher
(Joan Bowers)

Sunday, January 5

8:15 a.m. Christine Chiplonia
(Julia Chiplonia)

Sunday, January 5

10:30 a.m. Francis & Mary Burns

Message from Father Bobbin

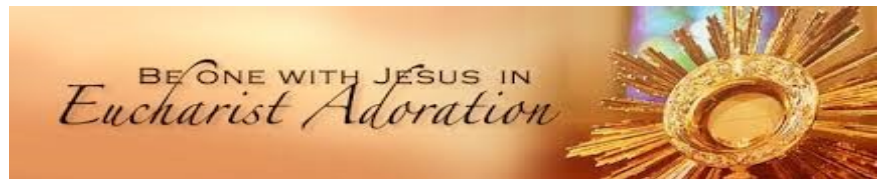
Dear Parishioners,

Picking up our series on the books of the Bible, we come to a group of Old Testament prophets who (more or less) lived after God's people returned from the Babylonian Exile and set about rebuilding Jerusalem.

First we must pay one more visit to the Book of Isaiah. Some scholars propose that the final chapters of Isaiah (56-66) reflect the situation in Jerusalem after the return from exile. After the joyful Good News in Isaiah 40-55 that God will bring His people back from exile to the Promised Land, the tone in Isaiah 56-66 is more subdued. God's people must learn not to repeat the mistakes of the past that resulted in the exile. Only those who are faithful to God will share in the promised salvation. Not only the people of Israel, but Gentiles who are faithful to God will share in the blessings of the covenant.

In contrast to the lengthy and complex Book of Isaiah, the Book of Haggai consists of only two chapters and one message. Living in Jerusalem just after the return from exile, the prophet Haggai urges the people to rebuild the Temple. Understandably, the people's primary concerns were food, water, shelter, and all the necessities of life. They put off rebuilding their place of worship, God's house. However, Haggai reminds them that their priorities were backwards. They needed to rebuild the Temple, in other words, *put God first*, and everything else would fall into place.

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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from 7:00 to 8:00 p.m. This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.

Next Week's Readings

Epiphany of the Lord
(January 4/5)

Reading I: Isaiah 60:1-6

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

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

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

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. For Ferdinand Lago
2. For Frances Lago

St. Joseph

1. For Neil Manus & Zary Lago
2. For Chloe & Joseph Manus

Sanctuary

For Neil & Frances Manus

Guardian Angels

1. For Joseph Manus
2. For Chloe Manus
3. For Mike Martin

All the above candles requested by Neil & Frances Manus

Guardian Angel

4. Special Intention

Liturgical Min. Schedule

Epiphany of the Lord

January 4 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Bob Wollyung

Server/Sacristan: Ryan Grabowski

Cantor: Stanley Gorski

January 5 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn

Euch.Min.: Bill Gianfagna
Ray Petrilla

Servers: Maggie & Rhyan Brennan

Cantor: Joanne Matina

January 5— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert

Euch.Min.: John Crane
Justina Majestic

Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman

Cantor: Dave Derbes



Communion to the Sick and Homebound

If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion` on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.

St. John’s Choir



St. John’s Choir is welcoming new and current members to the choir to sing Saturday 5:00 p.m. Masses and special Masses. This is a very rewarding experience for anyone seeking to become more involved in our Parish Family. No prior singing experience or reading of music is required. Contact St. John’s Rectory 570-622-5470 for more information.

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.

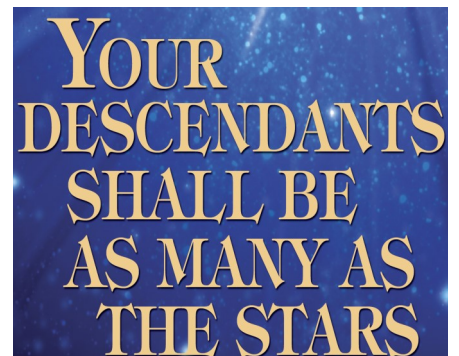
We invite **ANYONE** in the parish wanting to share his or her voice and musical gifts whether you are a beginner or more experienced. Arrangements are not complicated and songs are familiar. You do not need to know how to read music to join us. We will teach anyone who has a willing heart.

Our goal is to play/sing once a month at one of the weekend Masses. 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 please call the rectory 570-622-5470.



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.



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 to St. John's

This week we welcome **Edward & Angela Siminitus**. Edward is employed at Wernersville State Hospital and Angela is employed by Boyer's. Warmly welcome the Siminitus Family into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshiping with us today. If you are visiting our beautiful church, please know you are most welcome!

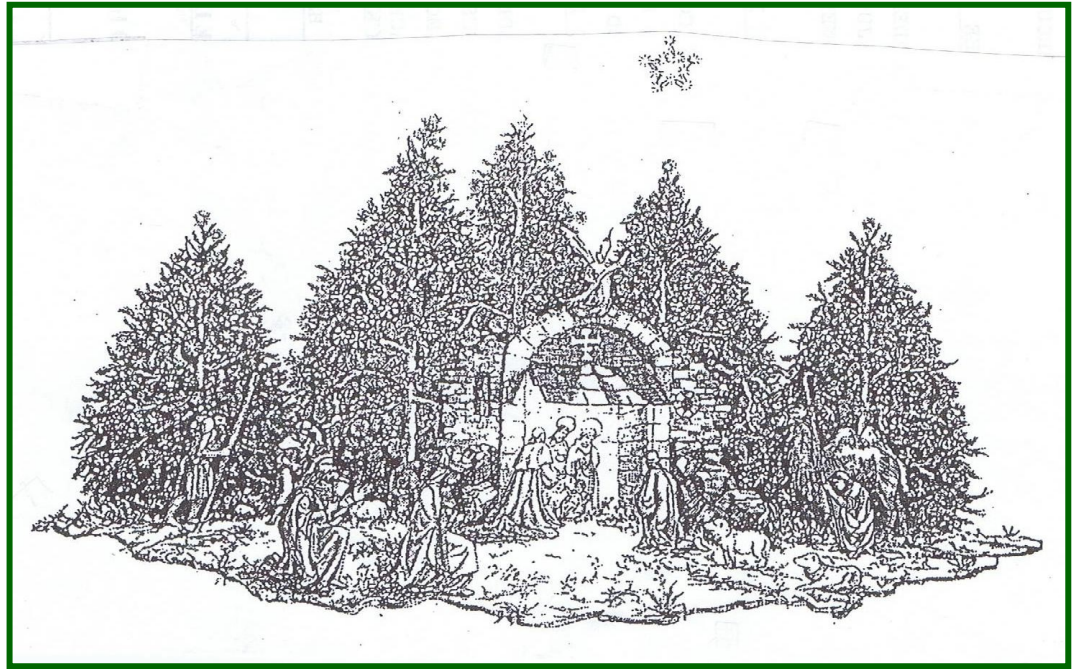
If you have questions or are interested in joining our parish family, please call the rectory 570-622-5470.

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."

Family Matters:

New Year's Day. This New Year offers your family a new beginning. Consider making a family commitment (AKA resolution). Make it simple, for all to be able to do. Put it on the refrigerator door. Pray for the grace to follow through.



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.



Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

Burial Plots

Because tragedy can strike at anytime ... when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need ... we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

Grave Lots \$ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care

Regulations / Guidelines

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

- * Shrubs are not permitted on cemetery grounds
- * Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. **NO** Perennials are permitted.
- * All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
- * Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden
- * All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
- * Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.

PRAYER FOR THE NEW YEAR

O God of new beginnings and wonderful surprises, thank you for the gift of a new year. May it be a time of grace for us, a time to grow in faith and love, a time to renew our commitment to following Your Son, Jesus.

May it be a year of blessing, a time to cherish our family and friends.

May it be a time to renew our efforts at work, as we embrace our faith more fully.

Walk with us, please, in every day and every hour of this New Year, that the light of Christ might shine through us, in spite of our weaknesses and failings.

Above all, may we remember this year that we are pilgrims on the sacred path to You.
Amen.

The Holy Family

Let us imitate the Holy Family in our Christian families, and our family will be a cell and a prefiguration of the heavenly family. Say a prayer dedicating your family to the Holy Family. Also pray for all families and for our country to uphold the sanctity of the marriage bond which is under attack.

Family Matters

Holy Family of the Year.

We pray this week for the intercession of our Holy Family — Jesus, Mary and Joseph, to intercede for all families. Whether we struggle as family or not, we ask to see Jesus' presence in our families' everyday lives.

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.

Nativity BVM High School

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.

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!

The child grew and became strong, filled with wisdom; and the favor of God was upon him.
-Luke 2:40

December 29, 2024

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 | Lk 2:41-52

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

Compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience.

These are the attributes Paul instructs the Colossians in today's reading to "put on" or to "clothe" themselves with. It's quite a list, isn't it? Paul goes on to talk about the virtues of the Christian family, which is fitting for today's Feast of the Holy Family. It is reasonable to expect, then, that the Gospel passage would follow through by expounding on the virtues of *the perfect family*: Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. Instead, in Luke's Gospel, we have the only story in all of Scripture of Jesus' childhood. The only one that shows the specific interactions of them as a family - it tells the story of Jesus at age 12 who stays in Jerusalem without Mary and Joseph knowing and who are unable to find him for days. Prayerfully reflecting on this unique glimpse of the Holy Family working through misunderstandings, fear, and hurt helps us relate even more to the true humanness of Jesus and the Holy Family.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

In the Holy Family, we see a model of relationship in human form. We are part of a holy family as well: we are children of God. And like Mary and Joseph, our family is enriched and strengthened when we are attentive to the presence of Jesus in our lives. Luke writes: "[Mary] kept all these things in her heart." Like Mary, let us strive to hold Jesus' words and commandments in our hearts so we can focus on God's divine plan for our lives. In the next line of Paul's letter offering us the "tools" for loving relationships (compassion ... patience) he adds, "bearing with one another and forgiving one another." In other words: love. We must put Jesus, who is love, at the center of our relationships and do everything in his name. Then our family, and our lives, will be holy indeed.

SING

*Mary, mother of faithful love;
Joseph, gentle and humble man of God;
Jesus, Son of Mary,
Bless, guide and protect the families you created.*



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

