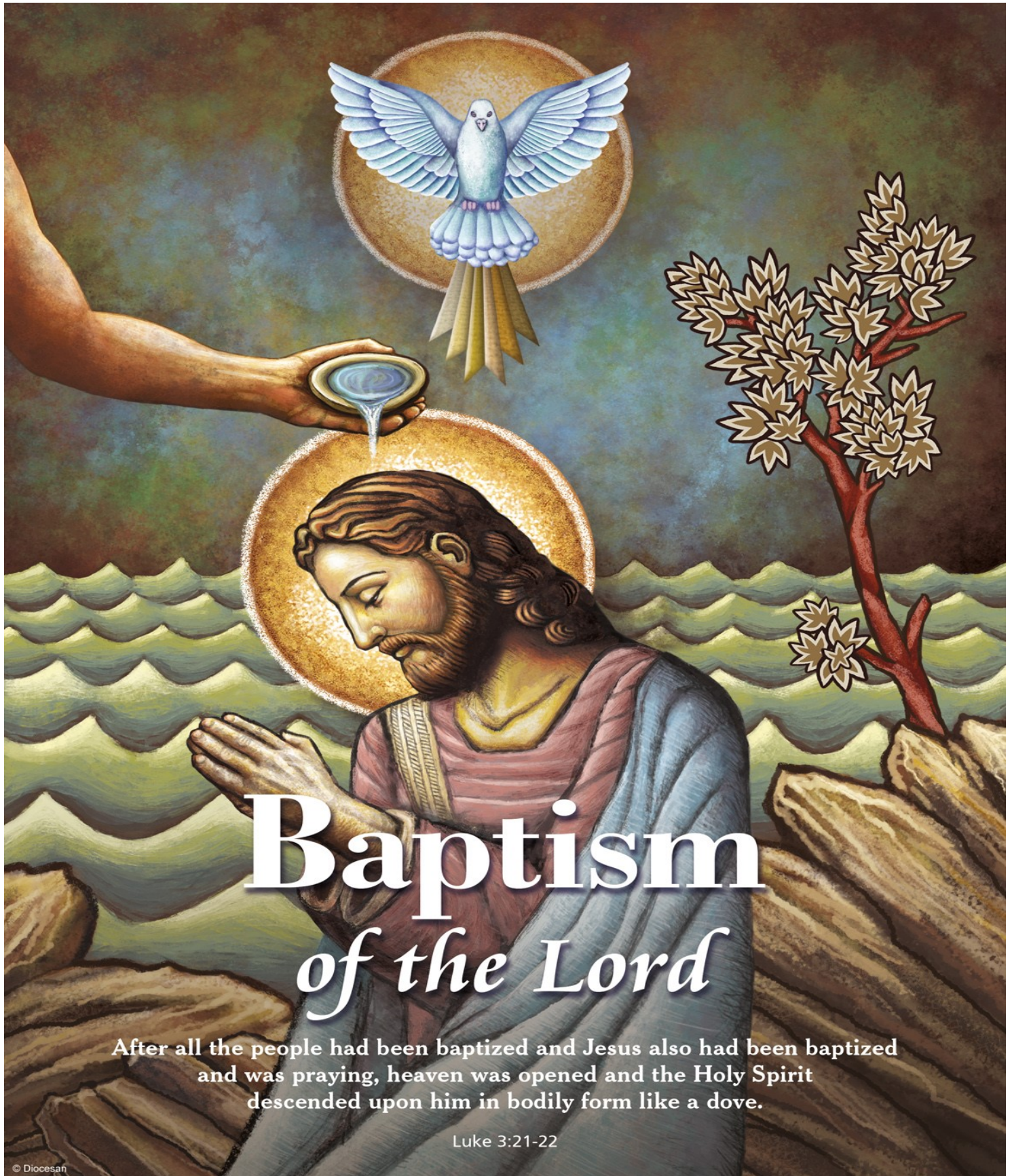


# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

January 9, 2022



## Baptism *of the Lord*

After all the people had been baptized and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying, heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended upon him in bodily form like a dove.

Luke 3:21-22



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, January 8

5:00 p.m. Virginia Comfort  
& Elvin 'Barney' Comfort  
(Chris & Jared Black)

### Sunday, January 9

8:15 a.m. Eileen C. Kosta  
(John & Joyce Gerace)

### Sunday, January 9

10:30 a.m. Judy Brennan  
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

### Monday, January 10

6:30 p.m. Ann Marie Urbanavage  
(Eric & Jennifer Lieberman)

### Tuesday, January 11

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Jr.  
(Ed & Bill Hahner)

### Wednesday, January 12

9:00 a.m. Dr. John M. Henry  
(Shawn & Karen Schmitt)

### Thursday, January 13

9:00 a.m. Josephine Cavanaugh  
(Ed & Mary Jane Hahner)

### Friday, January 14

9:00 a.m. St. John's Parish Family

### Saturday, January 15

5:00 p.m. Francis Bercher  
(Scott Williams)

### Sunday, January 16

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

### Sunday, January 16

10:30 a.m. John J. Minchhoff Family  
(Margaret Pauly)

## Next Week's Readings

2nd Sunday in Ordinary Time (January 15/16)

Reading I: Isaiah 62:1-5

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 12:4-11

Gospel: John 2:1-11

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today we conclude the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord. In light of today's celebration (and our new touch-less holy water fonts), this is a good time to reflect on what *holy water* is and why we use it.

Holy water is simply ordinary water blessed by a priest or deacon, using a prayer from the liturgical books or an improvised prayer. What is its purpose? To put it simply, holy water is meant to remind us of our Baptism. The Sacrament of Baptism "connects" us to the death and resurrection of Jesus Christ for our salvation. When we are baptized, we are freed from original sin and our relationship with God is transformed. The Holy Spirit comes to dwell in us, making us adopted sons and daughters of God the Father and brothers and sisters to each other in God's family, the Church. Baptism makes us disciples of Jesus.

Perhaps when you enter church and bless yourself with holy water, it can serve as a reminder that you are part of God's family and the Church is home as we journey to our perfect home in heaven. Perhaps when you leave the church and bless yourself with holy water, it can serve as a reminder that our membership in God's family involves a commitment. We have a mission to live as disciples of Jesus, transforming the world we live in little by little.

We also often use holy water to bless objects. It is important that we do not regard the use of holy water (or any other devotional practice) in a superstitious manner. Holy water and blessings are not magic. But when the Church invokes God's blessing on a person or object, we certainly believe that blessing is real and efficacious.

*In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin*



*Year of Real*  
**PRESENCE**  
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## 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

Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post • Gary Bradley • Ty Daubert

### For our Deceased

John Wollyung • John Centra

**Elderly — helping out.** Please, give your time to the elderly, for they have given us theirs. May the Lord give us the eyes to see their needs and the strength to help them. May we use our ears to hear them and our time to listen. We ask the Lord to bless them and keep them worry free as they peacefully enjoy their retirement.

## Upcoming Events

### January

9	9:15 a.m.	CCD Parent Meeting .....	L.H.
9	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class .....	L.H.
10	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour .....	Chapel
16	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school .....	L.H.
17	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour .....	Chapel
20	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
23	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class .....	L.H.
24	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour .....	Chapel
25	7:00 p.m.	Building Committee Mtg .....	L.H.
27	6:30 p.m.	Scripture Study .....	L.H.
30	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Pre-school .....	L.H.
30	11:30 a.m.	CCD Community Mtg. ....	L.H.

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

Tues. 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men's Group ..... Zoom  
Meeting ID: 824-780-6433 ..... Password: Mary

## Weekly Collection

**December 26.....\$3,675.40**  
**Improve. & Repairs .....\$1,174.00**

## Candles

### BVM

1. IMO Agatha A. Cook  
by Susan Cook  
2. Special Intention  
by Mary Jean Morgalis

### St. Joseph

1. IMO John E. Cook  
by Susan Cook  
2. IMO Frances Murton  
by Susan Cook

### Sanctuary

IMO Peggy Carl  
by Susan Cook

### Guardian Angels

1. IMO Andrew Cook  
by Susan Cook  
2. IMO Joseph W. Cook  
by Susan Cook  
3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy  
by Joan Grapsy & Family



## Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **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.

## SCRIPTURE STUDY

### **Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study:**

will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on January 20, 27, February 10, 17, 24, March 10, 17, 24, April 21, 28, May 12, 19, and 26. Join us in person in Longinus Hall (usually) or at home on Zoom (\*Please email Father for the Zoom link: [kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org](mailto:kbobbin@allentowndiocese.org)). Fr. Bobbin's Scripture study attempts to give an overview and background for the books of Sacred Scripture to be of help with personal reading and study, Bible study groups, and getting more out of hearing the Word proclaimed at Mass. All are welcome. *If Nativity BVM High School is closed or dismisses early*



## Liturgical Min. Schedule

### January 15 — 5:00 p.m. Mass

**Reader:** Patty O'Neill  
**Euch.Min.:** John O'Neill  
**Servers:** Kaitlin Painter

### January 16 — 8:15 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Jeff Naffin  
**Euch.Min.:** Justina Majestic  
**Servers:** Evan & Gavin Woodward

### January 16 — 10:30 a.m. Mass

**Reader:** Ray Petrilla  
**Euch.Min.:** Joyce Gerace  
**Servers:** Maggie & Rhyann Brennan

## Attention

**Readers, Servers, and Eucharistic Ministers ...** please let us know your plans for **February & March** so that we can get started on the schedule for those months. Please call or email the rectory by **January 12th**. Thank you



## Baptismal Preparation

Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated on Sundays at 11:30 a.m.

## 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 M/M James Loeper  
 MO Charles Lorenz  
 IMO Dorothy Parsick  
 IMO Jeanne 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!*

## Church Cleaning Crew

The more the merrier — new-comers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning which will take place on Saturday, January 15th at 8:00 a.m.

## Parish Photo Directory

It has been at least ten years since our last photo directory. We hope to produce an updated one in 2022. We would like to form a small committee to take on this project. If you are interested, please call or email the rectory.

## Flowers in Church

Some people have asked why we have not been decorating the altar with flowers much recently (before Christmas). Generally speaking, flowers are donations. The parish decorates the church for the Christmas and Easter seasons (partly thanks to your donations). The rest of the year, we welcome donations of flowers.

Flowers are **not** appropriate during the penitential seasons of Advent and Lent. Flowers **are** appropriate on:

- Sundays in Ordinary Time
- Sundays in the Easter Season (after the original Easter flowers have died)
- Holy Days—such as—Ascension Thursday, Assumption (August 15), All Saints Day (November 1), Immaculate Conception (December 8)



If you would ever like to donate flowers (perhaps in memory of a loved one), please call the rectory.

## Giving Thanks to God for the Gift of Human Life

God our Creator, we give thanks to you, Who alone have the power to impart the breath of life as you form each of us in our mother's womb; Grant, we pray, that we, whom you have made stewards of creation, may remain faithful to this sacred trust and constant in safeguarding the dignity of every human life. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, your Son, Who lives and reigns with you in the unity of the Holy Spirit, one God, forever and ever.

## Being Pro-Life Daily.

Every time we promote the dignity of a human being we are pro-life. God, grant us the courage to choose life in our words and our actions. May our families reflect the importance of promoting the goodness of life in the ordinariness of their daily activities.

## Assumption BVM School

Discover what Assumption BVM School has to offer at our New Student Information Session which will take place on **Sunday, January 30th from 11:30am until 1:00pm** at the school located at 112 South 7th St. in Pottsville (main entrance on Howard Ave.)

Our team welcomes you to tour our wonderful school! Meet our teachers, students and classrooms! We are excited to meet your family!

For questions or more information, please contact the school at 570-622-0106.

## Neighboring Events

Take Out Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church, 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville on **Sunday, January 9th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m.** (or sell out). Spaghetti platter includes pasta with our homemade sauce, two meatballs, a salad, and bread - Cost \$9.00. Extra meatballs and/or sauce available for purchase.

## 2021 Contribution Record

You can request a copy of your 2021 Contribution Record by calling the rectory Monday thru Thursday ... 622-5470 ext 3.

## A Note of Thanks

A big and heartfelt thank you to all the organizations and people who do so much to keep our parish alive and kicking. The following list is but a sample of what takes place in an organized way at St. John's. However, there are also a number of people who do the quiet, behind the scenes work. To all of them, our sincere thanks! We truly apologize if we missed any group. Let us continue to grow in all ways and keep the spirit of St. John's Parish alive for all to see and hear. May God continue to bless us.

Adult Faith Formation—Altar Servers—Bakers—Building Committee—Cantors—Catholic Women's Union—CCD Program—Cemetery Committee—Children's Liturgy—Choir—Choir Director—Christmas Bazaar—Christmas Pageant—Decorating Committee—Eucharistic Ministers—Finance Committee—Food Service—Giving Tree Helpers—Hospitality Ministers—Liturgy Committee—Monthly Cleaning Crew—Organists—Outreach Program—Parish Council—Parish Staff—Readers—Sunday Pre-School—Yard Sales

### Christmas Eve Liturgies

Our Christmas Liturgies were so enhanced with the talents of the following people. Thank you for sharing these talents with us ...

#### Instrumentalists

*Dave Derbes, Sophia Palmieri, Jason Prestileo, Michael Prestileo, Vincent Prestileo*

#### Musicians

*Dave Derbes, Bobby & Chrissy DiCello*

#### Choir Members

*Michelle Ambrose, Katie Blackwell, Mary Bound, Janet Daubert, Chrissy DiCello, Barbara Fox, Mark Murphy, Joe Piel, Barbara Powers, Ed Scheetz, Pat Scheetz, Sue Scheetz*

#### Organist

*Dave Derbes*

#### Ensemble

*Ed Brahler, Bill Gianfagna, Joe Palmieri, Melissa Palmieri, Jill Prestileo, Spencer Prestileo, Dave Steffan*

### Church Decorating

Our thanks to the following for decorating the church so beautifully for our celebration of Christmas: *Michelle Ambrose, Mary Bound, Lucilla Kochol, Rosemary & Bob Lynn, Dan Murphy, Butch Scheetz, Armilla Steffan*

### Giving Tree

You outdid yourselves again! The packages under our "Giving Tree" were overwhelming and beautifully wrapped. You are so good to others. What a wonderful spirit of giving and caring. You have made Christmas happier for all, especially those receiving presents. Those helped were: Our Communion Calls –7; Catholic Social Agency –60; Cloud Home –6; Jewel Women's Center –36  
Thank you to the following who helped deliver the gifts: *Ava & Robert Orlowsky, Eric & Naomi Neifert*

### Christmas Caroling

The following families joined us for caroling: *Batory's, Hauptly's, Greg Lieberman's, McGinley's, DeArment's, Stock's, Siket's, Welsh's.*

### Christmas Pageant

Thank you to *Emily Scheidel* and *Melissa LeBlanc* for your help with the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve.

Those involved were: *Nora & Gabe Scheidel, Mallory, Marcel, Maelynn LeBlanc, Rosa Ciaravella, Ellie & Emory Forney, Callen Liddle.*



**St. John's Christmas Choir**





January 9, 2022

## The Baptism of the Lord

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

Is 42:1-4, 6-7 or Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | Acts 10:34-38 or  
Ti 2:11-14; 3:4-7 | Lk 3:15-16, 21-22

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

For cradle Catholics, baptism may be the most important step on the Christian journey that none of us actually remembers. Which is too bad! After all, the *Catechism of the Catholic Church* instructs us that baptism is “the basis of the whole Christian life, the gateway to life in the Spirit.” (#1213) Yes, baptism cleanses us of original sin, but it’s much more than that! We need only look to Jesus to see that. Though without sin, Jesus’ baptism is a turning point in his life all the same. The Holy Spirit descends upon him and a voice from heaven cries out, “You are my beloved Son.” So begins the public ministry, in which Jesus would carry out his Father’s saving mission. Through our baptism, at any age, we, too, become God’s beloved sons and daughters. Through word and sacrament, Jesus invites us to share in his mission by turning our lives over to our Father as we embrace our Christian journey.

### **GO** EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Baptism is often referred to as “the doorway to the Church” because through this sacrament, our sins are forgiven and we are united to Christ and his Church. It is the door which gives access to all the other sacraments. (cf., CCC 1213) At the conclusion, the celebrant asks God to continue to pour out his blessing upon those being baptized, and send his peace to all who are gathered. As baptized Christians, we are now adopted children of God; we are disciples who are empowered, through the wisdom and strength of the Holy Spirit, to share the Good News and help build the kingdom of God on earth. Sound intimidating? It shouldn’t. Each day that we “put on Christ” and do his work, God is re-creating us and making us into something far better than we could ever be on our own. Embrace this faith you have been given and go out and share your gifts and talents with others, confident in the Spirit that guides you.

**SERVE** Think of something you have been told you are very good at by friends or coworkers – something for which you have been “anointed,” in a sense. In what way can you do something specific to lead others with care in this area, or perhaps do a very particular good yourself?



**Parochial Administrator** ..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon** ..... *Lawrence Loneragan*

**Parish Council President** ..... *Robert Bechtel*  
**Choir Director/Organist** ..... *David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator** ..... *Lucilla Kochol*

**Rectory** ..... (570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**E-mail** ..... [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)  
**Russell Building** ..... (570) 628-3002  
**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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)



CHRISTMAS CAROLING

CHRISTMAS PAGEANT

