

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And I tell you, ask and you will receive;
seek and you will find;
knock and the door will be
opened to you.”

Luke 11:9



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 23

5:00 p.m. Mary, Frank, Robert Holdyk
(Paul & Joanne Buber)

Sunday, July 24

8:15 a.m. Anna Kurtek
(Kurtek Family)

Sunday, July 24

10:30 a.m. Earl & Florence Tropp

Monday, July 25

6:30 p.m. Joan Steficek
(Larry Steficek & Family)

Tuesday, July 26

9:00 a.m. Mary Ann Siket
(Frances Lorenz)

Wednesday, July 27

9:00 a.m. Mark Mickey
(John & Barb Powers)

Thursday, July 28

9:00 a.m. Catherine Schaeffer
(Maria Schaeffer)

Friday, July 29

9:00 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Luis & Virginia Visot)

Saturday, July 30

5:00 p.m. Edward & Mary Buber Family
(Paul & Joanna Buber)

Sunday, July 31

8:15 a.m. Janet Weiss Bartholomew
(Frances Lorenz)

Sunday, July 31

10:30 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(John & Barb Powers)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

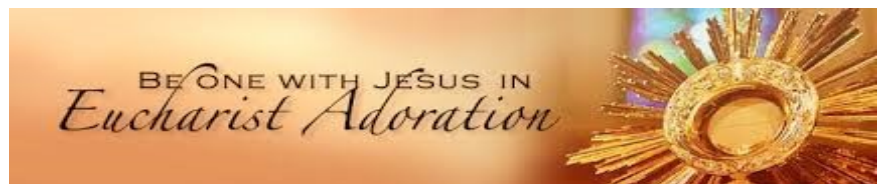
In this Sunday's Gospel, some of the disciples observe Jesus in prayer, which prompts one of them to say: "Lord, teach us to pray just as John taught his disciples." And Jesus responds with the words of the "Our Father" and with other lessons on prayer. At the heart of Jesus's teaching is the reality of our relationship with God as our Father who loves us and always gives us what we need.

Many years ago I remember a conversation with a parishioner who was lamenting her struggles in life. She commented something to the effect of: "I try to pray, but I don't know if I'm doing it right. I just talk to God and tell him what's on my mind." Of course, what she is describing is the *best*, most sincere form of prayer: talking to God, person to Person, from the heart.

Our basic prayers (the Our Father, Hail Mary, the rosary, etc.) are important. Prayers found in books are important. The Mass and sacraments, the Church's public worship, are extremely important. But, whatever form of prayer we use, we never want to lose sight of the fact that prayer is communication with a living Person. Jesus is not primarily interested in teaching us a method for prayer (as though there were some secret to it). He wants to lead us into a relationship with God the Father.

In Christ,

Fr. Bobbin



Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour takes place 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.

Flowers at the Altar

The flowers in front of the altar this weekend ...

In Memory of Erika Stangl Seasock

Donated by Bob & Susan Hahner.

Next Week's Readings

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(July 30/31)

Reading I: Ecclesiastes 1:2; 2:21-23

Reading II: Colossians 3:1-5, 9-11

Gospel: Luke 12:13-21

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 • Robert Kline

CCCD Religious Education



CCD Registration for 2022/2023 School Year

It is time to register for CCD. Please fill out the form below or use the link provided. You will need a Google email account to be able to fill out the form using the link.

Google Form Link: <https://forms.gle/ULDwSf2iTdNDF5G67>

Google forms need to be completed no later than August 7th.

CCD Registration Form 2022/23 GRADES 1st - 8th

Parent Name: _____

Address: _____

Parent Email: _____

Parent Phone: _____

Child #1: Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Child #2: Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Child #3: Full Name: _____

Age: _____ Current Grade: _____

Registration Fee is \$35.00 per family.

Return this form and fee to the rectory no later than August 7th.

Weekly Collection

July 16/17\$3,818.21

European Relief..... \$873.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Thank you for using your Improvements & Repairs envelopes to help us meet the maintenance needs of our parish.

Candles

BVM

1&2. IMO Ronald Kriston
by Joan Grapsy & Family

St. Joseph

1&2. IMO Gary Bradley
by Gerry Schwartz

Sanctuary

IMO Joseph Brahler
by Kathy Brahler

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Dorothy Elison
by Eleanor Schaeffer
2. IMO Emily Leinheiser
by Family
3. IMO Gary Bradley
by Barb Munster
4. IMO Mary Wollyung
by Wollyung Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

July 30 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert
Euch.Min.: Frank Murphy
Servers: Josh Steffan
Cantor: Joanne Matina

July 31 — 8:15 a.m.

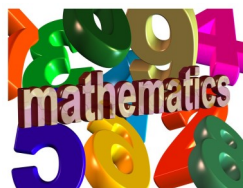
Reader: Jeff Naffin
Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Servers: Leah & Jude Scheidel
Cantor: Ed Brahler

July 31 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich
Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic
Servers: Sophia Palmieri
Cantor: Dave Derbes

Parish Outreach

As members of one parish family, we try to be attentive to each other's needs and help each other when possible. We are looking for anyone who would be able and willing to assist senior parishioners with limitations by driving them to appointments or errands, etc. Please call the rectory if you are interested in being someone we can call upon to assist a fellow parishioner.



Math Teacher Needed

Assumption BVM School is seeking a Full-time Middle School Math Teacher. Please send application, resume, certification and clearances to Assumption BVM School to the attention of Mrs. Teresa Keating, 112 South 7th Street, Pottsville, PA 17901

Church Cleaning Crew Thank You

We thank our Church Cleaning Group for doing a wonderful job cleaning our beautiful church including Longinus Hall and the Chapel.

Everything looks just perfect! Those volunteering their time and talent this month:

Michelle Ambrose, Sandy Frinzi, Ray Petrilla, Theresa Skrobak, Mim Tirjan, Joanne Wood.

The more the merrier — newcomers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning.

Welcome to St. John's

This week we welcome the **Burkot Family** to St. John's Parish Family. Donna is an x-ray technologist and children, Miranda is a student at Nativity High School and Natalie is a student at Pottsville Area.

Warmly welcome the **Burkot Family** into our parish family with a big dose of St. John's hospitality.

Family Matters

Long Term Illness. In your prayers this week, left up to God all those of our parish who are experiencing long term or chronic illness. We also ask God's guidance and support for their families. May they all find peace and comfort of heart as they face their daily challenges.

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."



RCIA is for anyone who is interested in becoming Catholic or in updating and deepening their understanding of the Catholic Faith. Are you interested in deepening your own faith? Or do you know anyone who has expressed an interest in becoming Catholic? Please invite them to join us. Have them call St. John's Rectory, 622-5470, to register for the RCIA sessions. All are welcome to attend any or all of the sessions.

Retrouvaille: Rediscover the Love in your Marriage

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. Upcoming weekend programs will be held August 19 - 21 and October 14 - 16 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

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

European Relief Fund

Thank you for your generous contributions last weekend to the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. As a parish we collected **\$873.00** to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries. If you missed the collection, it's not too late to give. Visit www.usccb.org/ccee.

New Mural in Church

Our **new mural** in the main stairwell of our church is currently being painted by artist and parishioner Kim Searle. She is designing and painting a mural of St. John the Baptist on the wall opposite David Naydock's mural of the Prodigal Son. We are looking for anyone who may be interested in sponsoring this project. We thank Kim and all helpers and supporters as we seek to add to the beauty and richness of our church.

Neighboring Events

St. Joseph the Worker Festival—49 N. Line St. in Frackville

Friday, August 5 - 3 to 10 p.m.—Entertainment "Sakes Alive" (7 to 10 pm)

Saturday, August 6 —12 noon to 11 p.m.—Entertainment "Another Side" (7 to 11 pm)

Themed Basket Auction & Raffle; Enjoy Homemade Ethnic Foods—Pierogies, Bleenies, Bandukies, Halupkies, Haluskie, Bean Soup, Hot Dogs, Baked Goods, and much more.

OUR FATHER

*Who art in heaven,
Hallowed be Thy Name.
Thy Kingdom come.
Thy Will be done,
on earth as it is in Heaven.
Give us this day our daily bread.
And forgive us our trespasses,
as we forgive those
who trespass against us.
And lead us not into temptation,
but deliver us from evil.
Amen.*

July 24, 2022

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Gn 18:20-32 | Col 2:12-14 | Lk 11:1-13

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

I miss my friend, Carol, a second mother to many of us navigating young adulthood in one of my adopted hometowns. Carol offered wisdom and perspective – and binders full of recipes for any occasion. So, even after moving away, I knew that I could “Dial A Cook” at a moment’s notice and Carol would drop everything and patiently dictate a recipe. Today’s Gospel fills me with gratitude for Carol, who through her love and generosity hints at God’s love and generosity toward us. Carol is with God now, so I still talk to her from time to time. Today’s Gospel reminds us that, likewise, we can bring anything to our loving God in prayer, and the Father will listen and respond. We may think we can power through our days, and our lives, on our own, but Jesus reminds us to persist in prayer: “And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find.”

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Remember the time before smartphones? When you needed a cup of flour or an egg, that meant knocking on a neighbor’s door. Now we most often text ahead, making the request a bit less awkward. Well, despite the proliferation of Catholic and spiritual apps, praying still requires “putting ourselves out there” before God. While God knows all and sees all, it is up to us to bring our deepest needs and desires to him. Our smartphones can help us here: We can set a reminder to pray each morning and each evening. We can model our persistence in prayer to our children and others by praying with and for them, especially at times when they are struggling with something or facing a difficult choice or situation. If an earthly Mother or Father knows how to give good gifts to their children, after all, “how much more will the Father in heaven give the Holy Spirit to those who ask him?”

PRAY Recite the Lord’s Prayer, understanding that God knows our needs and will give us each our daily bread.

Saint Bridget of Sweden



Saint Birgitta was the daughter of Uppland's Lagman, Birger Petersson and his wife, Ingeborg, who was a member of the same clan as the reigning family. Birgitta's family was pious; her father went to confession every Friday and made long and arduous pilgrimages as far away as the Holy Land.

Birgitta's mother died, leaving Birgitta, ten years old, Katharine, nine and a newborn baby boy, Israel. The children were sent to their maternal aunt for further education and care. It seems that as a young child, Birgitta had a dream-vision of The Man of Sorrows. This dream was very vivid. Birgitta asked Him who had done that to Him. His answer: 'All those who despise my love.' The memory of this dream never left Birgitta and may have even left an indelible mark on her sub-conscious. As was usual during the Middle Ages, Birgitta was married when she was 13 years old to a young man, Ulf Gudmarsson with whom she had eight children, four daughters and four sons, all of them survived infancy, and that was very rare at that time.

When the King of Sweden, Magnus Eriksson married Blanche of Namur, he asked his kinswoman, Birgitta to come and be Lady-in Waiting and to teach the young queen the language and customs of her new country.

After her years of service at Court, Birgitta and Ulf made the long pilgrimage to Santiago di Compostela. On the return journey Ulf became dangerously ill in Arras. Birgitta feared for his death and sat all night by his bed praying, and then a bishop appeared to her, promised that Ulf would recover and 'God had great things for her to do.' He told her that he was Denis, Patron of France. Ulf recovered and was able to continue his work as Lagman in the province of Närke until early in the year 1344, when he was very ill so Birgitta took him to the monks at Alvastra where he died and was buried. Birgitta remained in a little house near the abbey and she spent long hours in prayer by Ulf's grave. She said that she 'loved him like my own body.' She arranged her affairs among her children and various charities and prayed for guidance. She was 41 years old and in the abbey at Alvastra God called her 'be My Bride and My canal'. He gave her the task of founding new religious order, mainly for women. He said that the other orders had fallen into decay and this new order would be a vineyard whose wine would revivify the Church. He showed her how her abbey church was to be built, gave directions concerning the clothing and prayers of the nuns, 60 in all, who needed priests as chaplains, 13 priests, 4 deacons and 8 lay brothers. These two communities were to be ruled by an abbess, who was to represent the Blessed Virgin Mary together with the Apostles in the Upper Room in Jerusalem.

King Magnus Eriksson donated a little palace and much land to the new monastery, but almost as soon she had begun altering the palace and organising the work, Christ appeared to her and asked her to go to Rome and wait there until she got the pope to return from France to Rome. She was to be there during the Holy Year 1350. Birgitta left Sweden at the end of 1349 never to return. For the rest of her life she saw visions concerning the reform of the Church, messages to kings and popes and many other persons in high places, directing them to work for the Church. It may be noted that Birgitta never wrote in the first person. She always said she carried a message from a very High Lord. Although she had longed to become a nun, she never even saw the monastery in Vadstena. In fact, nothing she set out to do was ever realised. She never had the pope return to Rome permanently, she never managed to make peace between France and England, she never saw any nun in the habit that Christ had shown her, and she never returned to Sweden but died, worn out old lady far from home in July 1373. She can be called the Patroness of Failures. In this she was like her Lord. He was also classed as failure as He hung on the Cross. Birgitta was a successful failure as she was canonized in 1391. Birgitta was the only woman ever to found a religious Order, Ordo Sanctissimi Salvatoris. It was never a double order but an order primarily for women with permanent chaplains, ruled by an abbess. The brothers had as their head, not a prior but a Confessor General who was responsible for the spiritual business of both convents.

The order spread swiftly throughout Europe with monasteries from Scandinavia right through Europe down to Italy. In modern times it has expanded into five different, juridically independent branches; Spain 1629, Rome 1911, U.S.A. 1970, Mexico at the change of the century. None of these foundations have brothers (except U.S.A. which has one male convent). The last Birgittine father died in Altmünster 1863. She is the patroness of Sweden.

Bridget of Sweden (c. 1303 – 23 July 1373) born as **Birgitta Birgersdotter**, also **Birgitta of Vadstena**, or **Saint Birgitta** (Swedish: *heliga Birgitta*), was a mystic and saint, and founder of the Bridgettine nuns and monks after the death of her husband of twenty years. Outside Sweden, she was also known as the *Princess of Nericia*^[2] and was the mother of Catherine of Vadstena. (Though normally named as *Bridget of Sweden*, she was not a member of Swedish royalty.)

She is one of the six patron saints of Europe, together with Benedict of Nursia, Cyril and Methodius, Catherine of Siena and Edith Stein.

Feastday: July 23
Patron: of Sweden

Pastor..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*
Deacon.....*Lawrence Lonergan*

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
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

