

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

July 28, 2024

17TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

When the people saw the sign he had done,
they said, "This is truly the Prophet,
the one who is to come into the world."

Jn 6:14



Mass Intentions

Saturday, July 27

5:00 p.m. Robert Holdyk
(Paul & JoAnna Buber)

Sunday, July 28

8:15 a.m. Anthony S. Gaburick
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, July 28

10:30 a.m. James Pugh Jr.
(Peggy Stoppi)

Monday, July 29

Elizabeth Lipsky
(Paul & Bernie Gombola)

July 30 — August 2 — NO MASSES

Saturday, August 3

5:00 p.m. Ed Smith
(Grandchildren)

Sunday, August 4

8:15 a.m. Francis & Verna Sauers

Sunday, August 4

10:30 a.m. Carl & Barbara Weiss
(Children)

Next Week's Readings

18th Sunday in Ordinary Time

(August 3/4)

Reading I: Exodus 16:2-4, 12-15

Reading II: Ephesians 4:17, 20-34

Gospel: John 6:24-35



Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

We've been taking a tour of the first part of the Bible, the Pentateuch, which contains the first five books of the Old Testament. We looked at Genesis and Exodus. Here are the remaining three books.

When people try to read the Bible cover to cover, they might persevere through the lengthy books of Genesis and Exodus, but the Book of Leviticus is usually where they give up. Leviticus has no story. It is a book of nothing but rules and regulations about religious matters, social matters, and morality. What is the value of this book for us (especially since a lot of the specifics only applied to the ancient Israelites)? It reminds us that there is a right way and a wrong way to do things. When it comes to God, we don't do things any way we feel like. Secondly, the book teaches us a lot about worship in the Old Testament. This can help us understand and appreciate how we worship today as the Church, the people of the New Covenant.

The story of salvation resumes in the Book of Numbers. Besides containing even more rules and regulations, the book recounts the forty years that Israel spent migrating through the wilderness from Mount Sinai to the Promised Land. This was a formative stage in Israel's history with several important episodes.

Finally, the Book of Deuteronomy is something of a recap of the entire Pentateuch. Deuteronomy is set in the land of Moab, the last stop before Israel enters the Promised Land. It is here that Moses gives a series of farewell speeches, reminding the people of everything God has done for them and exhorting them to be faithful to the covenant with God so that they might enter and keep the Promised Land.

In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin



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.

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 • Tony Kochol • Tom Jefferson • Drew Schaeffer • Shawn Matz • Miriam Tirjan • John Bernetsky • Joanne Mestishen

Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

The Prophet's Profit

If you want to compare miracles in the first reading and the gospel, Elisha did his first, but Jesus did it better. Elisha had a hundred people to feed with twenty barley loaves and a handful of fresh grain. Jesus had five thousand people and only five loaves and a couple fish. So was Jesus trying to show up Elisha?

Neither Jesus nor Elisha ever did a miracle for their own benefit. When Elisha cure the king's servant, he refused to accept a gift, because it would imply that Elisha did the miracle, while the prophet knew that God had cured him. Jesus refused to let the crowds make him a king.

The miracle of feeding the five thousand was not done just for the crowd. He was using it to teach the disciples something important. He knew there would be times when they felt overwhelmed, so he showed them what God can do with our meager abilities.

There are millions of people hungry for the good news that Jesus brings to the world. Remember the miracle of the loaves when you only have a few dollars to give to the missions, or when you're not sure you know enough to teach someone about Jesus. And remember that you do those things, not to make you look holy, but to let God show his loving power.



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 Father Bobbin at St. John's Rectory 622-5470.

Collection for the Church in Central & Eastern Europe

Thank you for your generous contributions to this collection. As a parish, we collected \$929.00 to restore the Church and build the future in more than 25 countries.



New Altar Servers

We invite any boys and girls currently finishing fourth grade or older to consider becoming altar servers. Parents, please speak with Father Bobbin or call the rectory. We will arrange a mutually convenient time to meet for training.

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.

Weekly Collection

July 20/21\$3741.75
European Relief..... \$929.00

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

Please do not use tape or staples to seal your offertory envelopes

Candles

BVM

1. IMO Mary Wollyung
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Mary Hahner
by Hahner Family

St. Joseph

1. IMO Carl Weiss
by Sandy Clauser
2. Barbara Weiss
by Sandy Clauser

Sanctuary

Clauser Family
by Sandy Clauser

Guardian Angels

- 1&2. IMO John Wollyung
by Marianne, Chris, Rachel Wollyung
3. Diane Kubick
by Sandy Clauser
4. IMO Dorothy Elison
by Eleanor Schaeffer

Liturgical Min. Schedule

19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

August 3 — 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Wollyung

Euch.Min.: Hermine Murphy
Dan Murphy

Server/Sacristan: R.J. Post

August 4— 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Mike Ambrose
George Forney

Servers: Lukas & Finley McNamara

August 4— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Mary Matulevich

Euch.Min.: John Matulevich
Sharon Snyder

Servers: Lauren & Megan Goodman

Religious Education



CCD Registration for 2024/2025 School Year

Parents please register your child(ren) for Religious Education for the school year 2024-2025 using the Google Form link below. You must have a Google email account to use this form. Please contact Lucilla Kochol at the rectory if you do not have a Google Account to register. There will also be open registration after all the Masses the weekend of

August 3-4, 2024.

<https://forms.gle/aajKRARUv54G3axG9>

Sunday School Registration

All children ages 3 to 6 years old are welcome to join our Sunday School Program, Little Saints that starts in September and goes until May. We usually meet twice a month in Longinus Hall. A calendar will be provided upon registration. Class time takes place during the 10:30 mass.

Sunday School Registration Ages 3-6

<https://forms.gle/Ux27kPodx617XuLM9>



Children's Liturgy Grades 1-3

*Children's
Liturgy of the
Word*

All children first to third grades are welcome to join our Children's Liturgy Program during the 10:30 mass. Children will learn about the readings for that weekend on an age appropriate level. More information will be received once your child is registered.

Please use the links below to register your child for the desired religious education program. You will need to use a Google email account to utilize the links. Or you can also call the rectory and register with our Director of Religious Education, Lucilla Kochol.

Children's Liturgy Registration Grade 1-3

<https://forms.gle/T1vAiug4bqPrF4Xu9>

Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop

Drop Off — Saturday, August 3rd —

Look around your home for any items you wish to donate to our next Yard Sale. You'd be surprised what you might find. Here are some suggestions:

Decorations for Fall, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, Puzzles, Knick Knacks, Kitchen Items, Purses, Small Appliances, Candles, Toys, Games, Jewelry, Tablecloths, CD's, DVD's, Bakeware, Phones, Vintage items, etc.

DO NOT donate the following: Plastics, VHS tapes, Glasses, Cups, Televisions, Bedding, Computers, Monitors, Keyboards, Books, Clothing, Large Furniture, Stuffed Animal Toys, Large Christmas Trees.

ONLY ONE DROP-OFF DATE on **Saturday, August 3rd from 9 a.m. to noon** at the Russell Building. No items will be accepted before or after this date. Do not leave articles at the door or in the parking lot. Call the parish office 570-622-5470 ext. 3 for more information.



Catholic Women's Union Fundraiser

St. John's Catholic Women's Union is introducing a new fundraiser ... **Penn State Ye Olde Diner World Famous 'Grilled Stickies'**. Members will be taking orders after Masses on the weekends of ... August 10/11 and August 17/18. Pick up date is September 11th at the Russell Building. Plain \$9.00 — Nut \$12.00 — Apple \$12.00. For more information, please contact Joan Deiter 570-622-1381 or St. John's Rectory 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Nativity BVM High School News ...

Host Families Needed Educatus International is looking for host families for International students attending Nativity BVM High School this Fall. Please contact Amanda Rymarkiewicz-Bobella at 570-527-5104 or call Nativity directly at 570-622-8110.

Positions Available

Boys Soccer Coach for the 2024-2025 season. Interested candidates for either position, please send resume, clearances and references to: Mrs. Lynn Sabol, Nativity BVM High School, One Lawton's Hill, Pottsville 17901 or lsabol@nativitybvm.net

Neighboring Events

Parish Festival sponsored by St. Joseph the Worker Parish in Frackville on Friday, August 2nd from 3 to 10 p.m. and Saturday, August 3rd from 12noon to 11 p.m. at St. Ann Grove, Rear of 49 N. Line St. in Frackville. Homemade food — pierogies, bleenies, halupkies, haluski, hot dogs, bean soup, baked goods and more! Plus raffle tickets and themed Basket Auction. Friday entertainment "Sakes Alive" from 7—10 p.m.; Saturday, "Another Side" from 7 to 11 p.m.

Bus Trip to Emmitsburg, MD ... August 1st ... Seton Shrine (Home of the First American-Born Saint) includes: Morning Prayer & Mass in the Basilica. Tours of the Stone House, White House, Museum & Visitors Center. **National Shrine Grotto** includes: Sites of the Grotto, Lourdes Novena, Rosary Walk, the Way of Fr. Stanley Rother & Gift Shop; **Mount St. Mary's Seminary** includes: St. Bernard's Chapel, Prayer for Vocations, Tour of Seminary, St. John's Well and Tour of Immaculate Conception Chapel. Cost \$75 per person (bring your own brown bag lunch) Bus departs 8 a.m.; return approx. 8:30 p.m. Contact St. Clare of Assisi Rectory to reserve your seat.

St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour. Deacon Christopher May will preside at the next St. Monica Ministry Holy Hour, taking place at St. Theresa Church, 1408 Easton Road, Hellertown on Tuesday, August 13 at 6:00pm. Deacon May, who serves Sacred Heart Parish, Reading as a permanent deacon, will lead us in prayer for the return to the Faith of our fallen-away loved ones. All are invited to join in asking Our Lord's mercy and invoking the intercession of St. Monica for our prodigals. A St. Monica Ministry meeting and book discussion will immediately follow the Holy Hour. All are welcome. For information, please email StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com 370.

Diocesan News & Events

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. The next program will be held August 9 - 11 and again on October 4 - 6 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.

Your Life Retreat

Malvern Retreat House would like to invite men and women to experience a period of refreshment, support, reassurance, learning, and concentration on the gift of their lives. Learn, reflect, "dump your stuff", fortify yourself, increase your personal communion with the Lord. Come join the men's weekend, Sep 6, 7, and 8; or a women's weekend, Sep 13, 14, and 15; Fri night to Sun morning. Contact: Anthony Scarselletti, 610-393-4671, OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com.

Pilgrimage to the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception

The Diocesan Pilgrimage to the Basilica of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C., will be on Tuesday, October 7, 2025, the Feast of Our Lady of the Rosary. The Diocesan Pilgrimage tradition to Mary's House is typically held every four years. More information will be forthcoming for individuals, parishes, and schools. Contact Father Hoffa directly at his diocesan email ahoffa@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-921-2729, ext. 2205.



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.

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.

Family Matters

For Those Serving in the Military. We pray for all our loved ones serving our country in the military. We ask that the Lord bless them in their efforts to promote peace and justice in the world. Bring them safely home to their families.

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." Amen.

Moving? Relocating? Have you moved, changed your phone or email address? If so, would you please contact the Rectory Office at 622-5470 ext. 3. Help us update records!



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.



Flowers in Church

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 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

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.

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



July 28, 2024 | Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

2 Kings 4:42-44 | Eph 4:1-6 | Jn 6:1-15

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

GROW AS A DISCIPLE

PRAY, STUDY, ENGAGE, SERVE

If the multiplication of the loaves sounds oh so familiar ... it's because it is! It's the only miracle story found in all four Gospels, and for good reason. Jesus multiplies the meager offering of a boy with five barley loaves and two fish and feeds a large crowd with baskets left over. The story is symbolic of the food that is readily available through Jesus in the Eucharist. The crowd in the Gospel that had been following Jesus was tired, worn out, and hungry. Don't we all feel discouraged now and then? When we do, Jesus makes himself available to us in the Eucharist; he provides daily food that nourishes and sustains. When we eat this life-giving bread, we are strengthened and fortified, as was the crowd in the Gospel, as we heard: "They had more than they could eat."

SERVE Let's make an effort this week to try and emulate the boy in today's Gospel. Give what we have over to Jesus and say, "I trust you to make something out of this." Small acts of kindness, showing gratitude, or sharing our blessings can lead to bigger things than we think possible. We will never know the echoes of the good that we do, as it ripples out and touches other lives, but we can trust that in his love for us, God will use our good deeds for tremendous ends.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Trusting in the bounty of God can be a challenging thing. Think about Philip in today's Gospel – looking out over the massive crowd gathered, he thought, "there's no way we'll be able to feed all of these people." And he was right! He couldn't, and we cannot. But the Lord can. And if we are to "live in a manner worthy of the call [we] have received," we must strive to live like the Apostles with complete trust in Jesus, and not rely on our own notions of what's possible and what's not. The miracle here was not that everybody was hiding fish and bread and they shared it. No, the Gospel is clear that Jesus takes what little we can offer and multiplies it beyond our wildest imagination. That's the beauty of Gospel readings like this. Ordinary people are following Jesus, maybe curious about his message, maybe they know someone healed by him and want to see if he's for real. He teaches, they listen, and then something amazing happens. Let us always remember that no effort is too small for God – no kindness too ordinary. He magnifies the good we do. All we need to do is trust in his bounty, and freely give to him what we have.