

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 13, 2023



19th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“O you of little faith, why did you doubt?”

Matthew 14:31

Mass Intentions

Saturday, August 12

5:00 p.m. Kathleen, Matt, Mark
Norkus
(Al Norkus)

Sunday, August 13

8:15 a.m. Stephen Kurtek Jr.
(Jan & Steve Kurtek)

Sunday, August 13

10:30 a.m. Joseph & Anna Orlowsky
(Orlowsky Grandchildren)

Monday, August 14

6:30 p.m. St. John's Parish Family

Tuesday, August 15

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Jr.
(Hahner Family)

5:15 p.m. Peggy & Edward Petrovich
(Derbes Family)

August 16, 17, 18 — NO MASSES

Saturday, August 19

5:00 p.m. George & Sadie Post
(Bob, Irene, Sandy, Sheri,
RJ III)

Sunday, August 20

8:15 a.m. Ted Casey
(Family)

Sunday, August 20

10:30 a.m. Richard Setlock Sr.
(Family)

Next Week's Readings

20th Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 19/20)

Reading I: Isaiah 56:1, 6-7

Reading II: Romans 11:13-15, 29-32

Gospel: Matthew 15:21-28

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

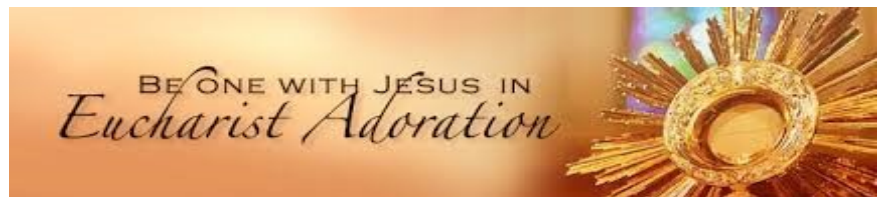
On Tuesday we celebrate the Assumption of Mary. For the past few weeks I have been commenting on prayer. How does prayer to Mary – or any of the saints – fit in?

A common objection among non-Catholic Christians is that we should not pray to Mary or the saints. We should only pray to God. This is true. To be precise, we do not “pray” to Mary or the saints. But we can certainly talk to them. Most people find nothing unusual or objectionable about talking to their deceased loved ones. Why can we not talk to Mary and the saints who are in heaven?

Still, why would we go to Mary or any saint when we can talk directly to God, the Father, Son, or Holy Spirit? There are several reasons, but the one I would like to emphasize here is that we believe in the value of *intercessory* prayer: praying for someone else's needs. Much of our prayer is intercessory. At Mass, the Creed is followed by the petitions, a list of intercessory prayers. We pray for each other all the time (hopefully). As people leave Mass, very often someone asks me to pray for them, perhaps for a health reason, or to pray for a family member. Why would they ask me when they could just pray to God themselves? Because we are all part of the Body of Christ and there is a great value in praying for each other.

Jesus gave us His Mother, Mary, to be our Mother. She is a loving and powerful intercessor with God. When we talk with her, it takes absolutely nothing away from the devotion we owe to God Himself.

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.

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 • Josephine Gallagher
Tom Jefferson • Theresa Chapman • Christine Kurtek • Dominic Maccarone



SCRIPTURE STUDY

Fr. Bobbin's Scripture Study: will be offered Thursday evenings 6:30-7:30 on September 14, 28, October 12, 26, November 9 and 16. Join us in person in Longinus Hall or at home on Zoom (*Please email Father for the Zoom link: 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.



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.

Little Saints Sunday School

Little Saints Sunday School operates during Sunday 10:30 a.m. Mass from September to May in Longinus Hall for approximately 45 minutes twice monthly. Our program is for children ages 3—6 years of age and need to be toilet trained. If you have a child that is not yet toilet trained or younger than 3, you can still have them participate. We simply ask that you remain with your child for class.

Our program uses the curriculum Catholic ABC's which is a fun, engaging curriculum designed to build a strong beginning foundation of faith and the knowledge that God loves us. If you would like your child to join our pre-school program, please fill out the registration form using the link below. You must have a Google email to use this link. Otherwise, you will need to fill out the registration form below and return it to the rectory or the collection basket at Mass.



<https://forms.gle/CwkM9hy3g1cn9oHr8>

Parents will be provided the dates of class upon registering.

Child's Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Current Age: ____

Parent Names:

Mother: _____

Father: _____

Contact Phone Number: _____

Email: _____

Any Allergies: _____



Weekly Collections

August 5/6\$4,707.00

Monthly Dues\$1,070.00

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&2. IMO Verna Maccarone
by Natalie Setlock

St. Joseph

1. IMO George Hahner Jr.
by Family
2. IMO Bill & Mary Pugh
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Sanctuary

IMO Rick Pugh
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Guardian Angels

1,2,3,4. IMO Peter A. Kostick
by John, Cathy, Hannah Kostick

Liturgical Min. Schedule

August 19 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Hermine Murphy

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Stanley Gorski

August 20 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

Cantor: Dave Derbes

August 20 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Jen Daubert

Euch.Min.: Mary Modesto

Server: Jackson Daubert

Cantor: Ensemble



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.

Family Matters

Addiction in Families.

We pray for those who are burdened with an addiction, that they may find the strength to overcome their dependence and find a fulfilling relationship with God.

Welcome Visitors

Thank you for worshipping 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.

Moving? Relocating? Let us Know!

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!

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."

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

Women of all ages are invited to join the Catholic Women's Union. Learn how you can become involved with the Catholic Women's Union by joining us on **Wednesday, August 16th at 7 p.m. in Longinus Hall.** Meet the members and learn how you can be part of this unique organization. We share ideas and light refreshments are served. We work to raise money for our parish and have fun doing it. We also share in fellowship by sharing in a Spring and Fall Auction, Christmas Party, and the Covered Dish Dinner. Your ideas, friendship and membership are welcomed. Join us! **Please Note: 2023 Dues are now due!**



Catholic Women's Union—Fundraiser



St. John's Catholic Women's Union are sponsoring a Chicken BBQ or Pulled Pork Dinner on **Saturday, September 23rd from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.** in the Parking Lot next to Dunkin in Yorkville. Pre-Sale tickets available before and after all Masses September 9&10 and September 16&17 in the back of church. Cost—\$13.00. Please contact any Catholic Women's Union member or call the Rectory for more information 570-622-5470 ext. 3.



Assumption BVM School News

- Volunteers needed! We are looking for dedicated parishioners, parents, grandparents, family and friends to help make our educational program one of the best in the Diocese of Allentown. Please contact Mrs. Schoepflin at eschoepflin@assumptionbvmschool.net for details and required clearances.
- Assumption BVM school has openings for the 2023-2024 school year. Please call to inquire which grades still have openings. The school office is open Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday during the summer from 9:00 am to noon. 570-622-0106.
- Give the gift of a Catholic education! Complete or partial sponsorship of a student can make the difference for a child being able to attend Assumption BVM where their faith, social, behavioral, and academic needs can be met. Please consider making a donation of any amount to be put towards academic sponsorship, partial tuition sponsorship of \$1662.50, or full tuition sponsorship of \$3325. Send donations to Mrs. Erin Schoepflin, Principal Assumption BVM Catholic School 112 South 7th Street Pottsville, PA. 17901. Donations may also be made on our website, www.assumptionbvmschool.net under the "Support Us" tab. Please scroll to the bottom and click on Tuition Angel Donations. Thank you for considering Assumption BVM for your charitable giving!
- The annual ice cream social will take place on **Wednesday, August 16.** Parents and students are invited to visit the school, meet their teacher, find their classroom, and enjoy some ice cream with us! Kindergarten @ 6:00pm, grades 1-4 @ 6:30pm, and grades 5-8 @ 7pm.

Neighboring Events

Holy Land Pilgrimage 2024 sponsored by St. Ambrose Parish in Schuylkill Haven ... to Israel from October 2-10, 2024. Cost is \$4,500 which includes airfare, first-class hotels, daily breakfast and dinner, round trip transportation to JFK Airport, basic tour and sightseeing, tips and gratuities, taxes, and entrance fees. There will be opportunities to join in the celebration of Mass at different churches each day or to explore the religious shrine on your own during Mass. Cities on the itinerary include Bethlehem, Jerusalem, Jericho, and Nazareth. You will be visiting the Church of the Nativity, Qumran and the Dead Sea, Mount of Beatitudes, Garden of Gethsemane, the Western Wall, and many other places. On your last day in Jerusalem, you will walk the Via Dolorosa and celebrate Mass at the Church of the Holy Sepulchre. If you are interested or want more information, please visit <https://www.barefootexcursions.com/group/Holy%20Land%20Pilgrimage> or call Barbara in the Parish Office (570-385-1031).

Diocesan News ...

August is Make-A-Will Month. If there's a will... There's definitely a way. Your will is your way to protect your loved ones, ensure your wishes are honored, and even make an impact with your legacy. FreeWill's free estate planning tool, available to all parishioners at St. John the Baptist, is a simple, confidential, and cost-free way for you to chart your own way during National Make-A-Will Month. Visit FreeWill.com/AllentownDiocese to get started on your will.

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 programs will be held August 18-20 and again October 6-8 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.

St. Joseph in the Hills Retreat for Men

Men in the Diocese of Allentown are invited to a period of refreshment, release, calming, learning, concentrating on the most important gift: your life, a gift from God. The retreat called 'St. Joseph in the Hills' will take place at Malvern Retreat House in Malvern, PA. The Lehigh Valley men's retreat group, dedicated to Our Lady of Perpetual Help, would like to invite you to experience the same excitement and awe that we feel on our yearly weekend. Learn, reflect, and increase your personal communion with the Lord. Join us on the weekend of August 25, 26, & 27, Friday night to Sunday morning. To register, contact Anthony Scarselletti of the Our Lady of Perpetual Help Group by phone (610-393-4671) or by email: OLPH.ascarselletti@gmail.com.

Catholic Women's Society of Giving

Join a community of like-minded women who are committed to raising awareness and funds to aid non-profit ministries with the Diocese of Allentown in imitation of the life of St. Catharine of Siena. The Catholic Women's Society of Giving seeks to promote philanthropy that empowers women, compels action, and glorifies God.

To learn more visit <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/womensgiving> or call Ginny Downey at 610-871-5200 x2244.

Annual Golf Tournament

Monday, September 25th at Steel Club, Hellertown. Proceeds benefit Seminarian Scholarships and Catholic School Education Scholarships. For more information visit: <https://www.allentowndiocese.org/golf> or contact Michele Mullikin at 610-871-5200 x2282 or mmullikin@allentowndiocese.org



**ONE DAY ONLY - OCTOBER 18, 2023
SHOP 8AM - 11PM**

DONATE \$5 AND ENJOY:

- **25% OFF** DISCOUNT SHOPPING PASS*
- **REGISTER TO WIN** A \$100 BOSCOV'S GIFT CARD
At every Bosco's store

100% OF YOUR DONATION GOES TO OUR ORGANIZATION

PASSES ... \$5.00

available after all Masses on the following weekends:

September 16/17, 30

October 1, 7/8, 14/15

Passes are also available at the parish rectory Monday to Thursday 622-5470.

PRE-SALE

for St. John's will be available at Bosco's on the following dates:

August 13, 18, 19, 20, 23, 26, 27, 30, 31

Sept. 1, 3, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24, 27, 28, 29, 30

October 1, 4, 5, 6, 8, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18

Weekdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m.

Sundays 12 to 3 pm

October 18—8 am to 11 pm

*Thank you in advance
for your support!*



August 13, 2023

Nineteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

1 Kgs 19:9a, 11-13a | Rom 9:1-5 | Mt 14:22-33

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Unlike with our other important relationships, God isn't exactly someone we can meet for coffee and look into his eyes while having a conversation. Whether we talk to God in our mind or out loud, we recognize that even with a good prayer life it can sometimes be difficult to cultivate and maintain a relationship with God. Doubters and unbelievers are quick to remind us how impossible it is to believe what we cannot see or hear, but today's readings also remind us that God doesn't speak to us as another human being would. Maybe he doesn't speak with the booming voice of a preacher or a politician, and maybe he doesn't write direct messages for us in the sky or sand, but God does speak. Perhaps, like Elijah, we tend to expect God to communicate with huge gestures, such as strong wind that crushes rocks, or earthquakes or fires; but we hear today that God spoke to Elijah in a "tiny whispering sound." It's not unlike a very good teacher who doesn't need to raise her voice to get her students' attention when they lose focus – she has their respect and simply needs to speak normally and calmly and the students quiet down, pay attention, and listen. When we still our hearts and minds and listen, in prayer, let us be confident we will hear God's voice.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Perhaps in order to hear God's voice in our lives we need to fine-tune our "hearing." First, how can we hear if we do not have faith? Jesus called Peter out of the boat and into stormy waters, and though he was able to walk on water for a time, Peter began to sink because he became afraid. Doubt or fear can hamper our ability to listen to the Lord clearly; don't let it cloud your love for Christ! Second, we must keep in mind the many ways God speaks to us: his Word (the Bible), the writings of the saints and Church Fathers, our Catholic Tradition, other people God has placed in our lives, and the "tiny whispering sound" we might hear only within our heart. Stay attuned to God's voice; the rewards are heavenly.

INVITATION Ignatian spirituality – meditations, prayers, and contemplative practices – may help us recognize and truly hear the still small voice of God in our lives. The Daily Examen is a prayerful reflection on the events of the day which might help us identify the movement of the Holy Spirit in those moments. Give it a try.

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

Parish Council President *Kevin McNamara*
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

