

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 20, 2023



20th Sunday in Ordinary Time

“O woman, great is your faith! Let it be done for you as you wish.”
And her daughter was healed from that hour.

Matthew 15:28

Christ and the Canaanite Woman by Jean Germain Drouais, 1784
© Diocesan

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday—Tuesday — NO MASSES

Wednesday, August 23

7:00 p.m. Jack Scheetz
(Time Change) (Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Thursday, August 24

7:00 p.m. St. John's Parish Family
(Time Change)

Friday, August 25

11:15 a.m. Clair & Margaret Fry
(Time Change)

Saturday, August 26

5:00 p.m. Drye Family
(Shawn & Karen Schmitt)

Sunday, August 27

8:15 a.m. Jack Hudock
(Jerry & Diane Hudock)

Sunday, August 27

10:30 a.m. John & Margaret Kasinecz
(John & Barb Powers)

Next Week's Readings

21st Sunday in Ordinary Time
(August 26/27)

Reading I: Isaiah 22:19-23

Reading II: Romans 11:33-36

Gospel: Matthew 16:13-20

Message from Father Bobbin

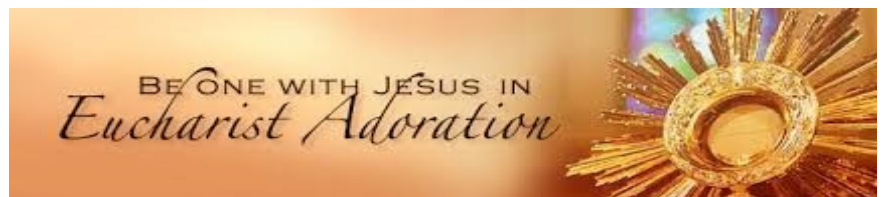
Dear Parishioners,

As we continue to reflect on prayer, let me go back to something I mentioned a few weeks ago. Prayer is not like saying the "magic words." We do not pray in order to get things or to make something happen. Prayer is communication with a live Person who cares about us and already knows what we need, even better than we do.

Then why do we ask for things? Why do we pray for someone's health, or for peace in Ukraine, or for God's help in getting through some challenge? Because God wants us to be honest with Him. He wants us to express our needs and desires. He wants us to express our trust that He can take care of all these things. This is all part of the communication needed to deepen any relationship, including a relationship with God.

What about requests that seem to go unanswered? There are several possibilities. For example, maybe God is meeting your need in a way that is different from what you expected. Or maybe God intends to grant your specific request... but it's not the right time yet. Or maybe if you are praying for something for a long time and nothing seems to be changing, it is God's way of getting you to think twice about what you are asking. Maybe you need to see things differently. Prayer is not about changing things, it's about changing *us*. Whatever the case may be, prayer is built on our trust that our Father knows what is best and will always give it to us, even if we do not see it ourselves.

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 Kurtsek • Dominic Maccarone

For our Deceased

Paul Filiac, Dollie (Cubler) Sitkus

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 12/13\$4,642.60

Improv. & Repairs\$1,458.00

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 Helen Lescavage
by Linda & Martin Smith
2. MO Joseph Lescavage
by Linda & Martin Smith

St. Joseph

1. IMO Francis & Thelma Maley
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. IMO Ed & Mary Adams
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Sanctuary

IMO Joseph Maley
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Walter Grossman
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. IMO Russell & Jeannate Richards
by Fred & Hilda Maley
- 3&4. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy & Family

Liturgical Min. Schedule

August 26 — 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Carleigh Palmieri

Euch.Min.: Heidi Gorski

Server: Aleksander Gorski

Cantor: Joanne Matina

August 27 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder

Servers: Sacristan

Cantor: Amy Joyce

August 27 — 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: Justina Majestic

Server: Vincent, Michael, Spencer
Prestileo

Cantor: Marianne Wollyung



Mid-Summer Festival

This year's net profit:

\$13,485.03

Once again, a special

"Thank You"

to all who made the
Festival a huge success!

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, Debbie Kubilus, Judy Meseravage, Ray Petrilla, Lisa Schlitzer, Theresa Skrobak, Joanne Wood.

The more the merrier — new-comers are always welcome — please call the rectory if interested or just show up at our next cleaning on September 9th.

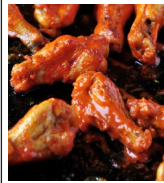
Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
IMO Harold Bartholomew
IMO Robert Berger
John & Mildred Fredericks
Fr. Don Henry
IMO M/M Herbert Henry
IMO Joanne Hepler
IMO Kathleen Hohman
IMO Clare & Linda Houser
IMO Charles Lorenz
IMO Dorothy Parsick
IMO Erika Stangl Seasock
IMO Margaret Zelinsky
Living & Deceased of St. John's
CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
bulletin this month!*

*"Have pity
on me, Lord,
son of David!"*

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.



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.

St. Joseph Center for Special Learning invites you to join us for our OPEN HOUSE!

All are invited to come! Preview our new school at 203 Randel St. in Schuylkill Haven on **Saturday, August 26** from 4 to 6 p.m. and **Sunday, August 27** from 9:30 a.m. to 12 noon. Tours available, fun activities for the family, raffles, and light refreshments will be served. For more information please call 570-622-4638.

Neighboring Events

Back from the Dead Tour

St. Clare of Assisi & Holy Cross Parishes are sponsoring a bus trip to the Seton Shrine in Emmittsburg, MD for the Back from the Dead Tour on **Friday October 20th**.

The Back from the Dead Tour is a walk through the grounds of the Seton Shrine where participants will experience the Saints come back to life for one evening. Cost which includes the ticket is \$35.00 per person. Bring your own brown bag dinner. For more details and reservations, please call St. Clare of Assisi Rectory ... 570-429-0370.

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 ...

Feast of St. Monica Holy Hour and Dinner with Bishop Schlert ... On **Sunday, August 27th**, the Feast of St. Monica, the Most Rev. Alfred A. Schlert, Bishop of Allentown, will preside at a Holy Hour for the members of the St. Monica Ministry. The Holy Hour will take place at the Cathedral of St. Catharine of Siena, Allentown, beginning at 4:00pm. A buffet will follow in the parish center. All are welcome to take part in this very special evening of prayer and fellowship. For more information or to register, please email Celeste Behe at StMonicaMinistry27@gmail.com

Wedding Anniversary Mass Married couples from across the Diocese are invited to renew their vows and thank God for the gift of the Sacrament of Marriage during the annual Diocesan Wedding Anniversary Mass at the Cathedral of Saint Catharine of Siena, Allentown, to be celebrated **Sunday, Sept. 17 at 3 p.m.** You can register to attend the Mass by visiting www.allentowndiocese.org/anniversarymass. See AD Today and the AD Times for more information as the date gets closer. Deadline to register is Monday, Sept. 4. If you have questions, email stewardship@allentowndiocese.org or call 610-866-0581 ext. 2310.

Men's and Women's Cursillo Weekends

Cursillo has been a powerful means of spiritual growth for Catholics throughout our diocese as well as Catholics around the world for decades. We are pleased to announce this year's weekends are as follows:

Men --- Thursday Evening, September 21 to Sunday afternoon September 24

Women --- Thursday Evening, September 28 to Sunday afternoon October 1
(Must be 18 years of age to attend)

Where: Mariawald Renewal Center in Mohnton

For more information call or text: Beth Pawlik: 610-781-2935 or Michael Pavlik: 610-781-4400

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.

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 30/October 2 and October 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 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.

2nd Saturdays 12 to 5 p.m.

3rd & 4th Saturdays 10 a.m. to 2 p.m.

Sundays 12 to 3 pm

October 18—8 am to 11 pm

*Thank you in advance
for your support!*



August 20, 2023

Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 56:1, 6-7 | Rom 11:13-15, 29-32 | Mt 15:21-28

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

The abundance of God's love for us is what stood out for me in our readings today. If we consider the concept of abundance outside the Scriptures, it can be tricky. When we have it, does it imply we have too much when others have too little? If we are speaking of material things, then perhaps. But God's infinite and merciful love for us resound in each of our readings today, and this is cause for joy. In Isaiah, the Lord announces that he will accept offerings from anyone who holds to his covenant, Jewish or not. Saint Paul stresses that God's mercy is for *all*, and Jesus, after some back-and-forth with the Canaanite woman, heals the woman's daughter because of her great faith. God never tires of desiring healing and wholeness for *all* his children, which is a great gift. Let this gift of grace from God be a catalyst for us to reach out in love to others so that we also can come to God's "holy mountain and [be made] joyful in [his] house of prayer."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

How can we reach out in love to others as we called to do? Perhaps we can start with our parish. Is there a ministry we have read about in the bulletin that needs volunteers? Or a coordinator? Perhaps it is time to ask God how we can be his instrument in the world. We can start small. I will never forget when my friend volunteered to run our Vacation Bible School one summer. Of course, she turned to her friends to help her with this daunting task! What she desperately needed was someone to go from classroom to classroom and lead the children in song. Talk about out of my comfort zone! But she gave me the music books and song suggestions, and pretty soon, "This Little Light of Mine" was reverberating through the halls of the school. I learned then and there that kids don't notice the quality of your voice if you are joyful and enthusiastic. They love to sing! Take a chance and get out there. You won't regret it.

PRAY *Lord, Jesus Christ, give me the wisdom to view my hands as extensions of yours. Give me eyes to see all people as you see them. Help me to use my voice to praise you and bring the truth of your goodness to everyone I encounter. Give me the strength to have unwavering faith. Amen.*

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

