

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

August 27, 2023



21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

“And so I say to you, you are Peter, and upon this rock I will build my church, and the gates of the netherworld shall not prevail against it.”

Matthew 16:18

Mass Intentions

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)

Monday, August 28

6:30 p.m. Michael Klembara
(Tom & Ann McGee)

Tuesday, August 29

9:00 a.m. Josephine Kochol
(Tony & Lucilla Kochol)

Wednesday, August 30

9:00 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Larry Lonergan)

Thursday, August 31

9:00 a.m. James Pugh Jr.
(Linda Humphrey)

Friday, September 1

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

Saturday, September 2

5:00 p.m. Paul Rosenberger
(Janet Thomas)

Sunday, September 3

8:15 a.m. Julian & Mary Chiplonia
(Julian Chiplonia)

Sunday, September 3

10:30 a.m. Dec. of John & Gretchen
Lieberman Family
(John Lieberman Family)

Next Week's Readings

22nd Sunday in Ordinary Time
(September 2/3)

Reading I: Jeremiah 20:7-9

Reading II: Romans 12:1-2

Gospel: Matthew 16:21-27

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

A few weeks ago, I mentioned that it is important to incorporate informal prayer into your day. In other words, spend time everyday talking to God in your own words. This can be a few minutes at different times of the day, or it can be a longer time, such as time spent in church during Eucharistic Adoration.

It seems simple enough: talk to God in your own words. But many people have trouble with this. What should I say to God (besides just listing people you want to pray for, or asking for things)? Tell God your *thoughts, feelings, and desires*. Thoughts: what is on my mind right now at this moment? Feelings: what am I feeling right now (contentment, joy, anxiety, frustration)? Desires: what is it I really want right now? The important thing is to be completely honest with God. Don't just say what you think you should be saying. If you are distracted by thoughts that have nothing to do with prayer, tell God what is distracting you. If you still feel angry or disappointed over something that you think you should be able to "get over," tell this to God. If you are being tempted by lust, tell God. He already knows. What do you desire right now? I'd rather be on vacation than at work or running around for my family. Tell God.

What is the value of all this? It makes us really pay attention to ourselves and understand what is going on inside us. Then it brings us closer to God as we share these things with Him. We start to pay more attention to our experiences and think about what might be causing us to think certain things, feel a certain way, or desire certain things. We start to get a sense of how God is acting in our lives and what He wants to communicate to us through our experiences.

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.
- ◆ A holy hour in the **main church on the eve of First Friday** from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This will be a formal holy hour ending with Benediction. Father will be available for Confessions.



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 Kurtke • 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.

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.



Yard Sale / Curiosity Shop — September 8 & 9

Friday, September 8 from 4 to 7 p.m. and **Saturday, September 9** from 9 a.m. to 12 noon at the Russell Building — 9th & Schuylkill Ave. Pottsville

Don't miss it! If you like yard sales, this is the place to be. Various items including ... knick-knacks, dishes, kitchen items, appliances, jewelry, holiday decorations, framed prints, special Vintage Section and much, much more, plus food is available for purchase. Something for everyone! Join us! Call the Rectory office 622-5470 ext 3 for more information.



Desserts/Baked Goods needed—If you would like to donate a dessert, please drop off at the times listed above or call the rectory 622-5470 ext 3. Please individually wrap or bag all dessert items to be sold.

Weekly Collections

August 19/20\$4,455.00

Assumption\$1,077.00

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 R.J. Post
by Bob & Irene Post
2. Health of Sheri Post
by Sandi & R.J. Post III

St. Joseph

1. IMO Jim Wollyung
by Wollyung Family
2. IMO Ted Murphy
by Fred & Hilda Maley

Sanctuary

IMO Joyce Leinheiser
by Miriam Tirjan

Guardian Angels

1. IMO Ken Richards
by Fred & Hilda Maley
2. Health of Sheri Post
by Bob & Irene Post
3. Health & Intentions
of Jackson Gaffney
by John & Bernice Petock
4. Health & Intentions
of Susan & Jackson Gaffney
by John & Bernice Petock

Liturgical Min. Schedule

September 2— 5:00 p.m.

Reader: Janet Daubert
Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz
Server: Sacristan
Cantor: Mary Bound

September 3 — 8:15 a.m.

Reader: Ann Blankenhorn
Euch.Min.: Rob Wiscourt
Servers: Jude Scheidel
Cantor: Dave Derbes

September 3— 10:30 a.m.

Reader: Bill Gianfagna
Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb
Server: Kelly, Lauren, Megan Goodman
Cantor: Tina Seiger

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!

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

School Year Beginning.

As we begin this new school year our parish prays that parents will support their children's effort in their studies, to develop their relationships with friends, and grow in their faith.

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.



Diocesan News ...

National Day of Remembrance for Aborted Children

Memorial Service for Victims of Abortion. Join us and groups across the country to pray for the babies who were lost to abortion — and for all people who have been wounded by abortion in any way. Date and location: **Saturday, September 16th at 1 p.m.**

at St. Jerome's (new) Cemetery, 501 Jerome St. in Tamaqua. Memorial is located near the top of the cemetery in the far left corner. Some chairs will be available, but we suggest bringing lawn chairs just in case. Event will be held rain or shine — cancelled if t-storms. Local contact is Cheryl Keifer 585-866-3835 or SJ23CherishLife@gmail.com For more information about this national event, visit AbortionMemorials.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

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 **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.

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.

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: _____



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 Boscov'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 Boscov's on the following dates:

August 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!*

“
Upon this rock
I will build
my church.”
(Mt 16:18-19)



August 27, 2023

Twenty-first Sunday in Ordinary Time

Is 22:19-23 | Rom 11:33-36 | Mt 16:13-20

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

God is not looking for perfection when it comes to his leaders, he is looking for true and loving hearts. In the first reading, God is not impressed with the master of the palace as a father for the people of Jerusalem. Eliakim the servant has the heart God desires. God will give Eliakim whatever he needs to guide his people – the right clothes, authority, and a place of honor. And we learn in the Gospel that Peter has the heart of love Jesus knows is necessary to guide his followers after he is gone. There are more learned and powerful men, but they lack Peter's faith. Jesus knows Peter is not perfect and he has much to learn, but Peter has the right foundation for the Church. We don't need to be the smartest people or have money and influence to be God's leaders. We need hearts of love and faith, and God will give us the tools we need to do the work.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

There is much to be done in our parishes and God needs our hearts and faith to get to work. How can we use our gifts and talents to help make the parish a welcoming place? For some it might be liturgical ministry, but every church needs people to work behind the scenes. Dusting and cleaning the church is not a glamorous job, but caring for the house of God is a blessing in itself. Helping the parish office with special mailings or weekly tasks is welcome to the staff who have so many responsibilities. Why not use the eyes of the Father to look in our hearts and see how we can make our parish a foundation of faith for all our family? We can also use God's sight to look for people at Mass who need an invitation to be more active in the parish, sharing the reminder none of us have to be perfect people to participate. We just need hearts of love.

ACT Look over the bulletin this week and reflect on where your talents could make a difference in your parish. Ask the Holy Spirit to give you the wisdom and guidance you need to find where God wants you to be and what he wants you to do. Extend an invitation to one person to join you in participating in a church ministry.

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

Saint of the Day

Saint Monica (332-387)

August 27

She had smiles for the neighbors, though her husband found her religion and the charity it inspired annoying. She made tearful prayers in private for a son, outwardly self-assured but, as his mother knew, inwardly restless, and whose girlfriend of a dozen years had borne his child out of wedlock. Though not the first or last such mother and son, Monica and Augustine are the Church's most famous, so we keep their feast days back to back, with Monica's, fittingly, first. To Rome she followed Augustine, then to Milan, where years of prayer—and nagging—finally bore fruit in his conversion by Saint Ambrose. For six months, mother and son enjoyed the blessing of rediscovering each other. Just in time! On the way home to North Africa, Monica took sick and died near Rome. No child who has mourned a parent can read, unmoved, Augustine's tender account, in his *Confessions*, of Monica's last days. At this time of the year, when parents watch apprehensively as children leave for school, may Monica's perseverance and Augustine's long-prayed-for conversion ease anxiety and kindle hope.

