



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

10th & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901

CHRIST THE KING
NOVEMBER 22ND, 2020

Pastor: *Rev. David J. Loeper*

Deacons: *Luis R. Visot and Lawrence Lonergan*



Pastoral Assistant: *Bobby Rienzo*

Parish Council President: *Robert Bechtel*

Choir Director/Organist: *David Derbes*

CCD Coordinator: *Lucilla Kochol*

Rectory (570) 622-5470

Rectory Fax (570) 622-4589

Russell Building (570) 628-3002

E-mail stjbparrish@comcast.net

Website SaintJohnPottsville.org

Nativity BVM High School (570) 622-8110

Assumption BVM Elementary (570) 622-0106

St. Joseph Center (570) 622-4638

 **Facebook** St. John the Baptist Catholic Parish Family

 **Instagram** stjbparrish

Cemetery Information

John Consugar (570)-449-1675

St. John's Rectory (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.

New Parishioners

Please call the Rectory for an appointment to register.

Bulletin Deadline Tuesday prior to publication.

Sick Calls

Please notify the parish office

Sacrament of Marriage

Please call the Rectory one year in advance.

Sacrament of Baptism

First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m.

Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass

Baptismal Preparation for Parents **MUST**

precede the Baptism

Please contact Father Dave for an appointment.

Diocesan Victim Assistance Coordinator

Ms. Wendy S. Krisak, M.A., NCC,LPC

Direct Telephone: (800) 791-9209

Diocesan Secretary for Youth Protection & Catholic Human Services

Office of Safe Environment

Pamela Russo, MSW, MS

610-871-5200, Ext. 2204

prusso@allentowndiocese.org

FROM THE PASTOR

Dear Parishioners,

This Sunday, the last Sunday of our church year, we celebrate Our Lord Jesus Christ the King of the Universe. There are compelling images of Christ on this solemn feast today.

One is of a shepherd who lovingly and humbly cares for his sheep. And so in this Sunday's first reading the Lord speaks through Ezekiel telling the people that he is the shepherd caring for his sheep. He provides for all their needs and will judge between sheep and between rams and goats.

The other image of King is the mighty ruler King of the Universe of heaven and earth. In Matthew's gospel for this Sunday, Jesus tells his disciples of the time when the Son of Man shall come in glory and sit on his throne separating the sheep from the goats. In this image, He judges on how well we cared for one another, saying, "*Whatever you did for one of the least brothers of mine, you did for me.*"

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 23 – 9:00 a.m.

FRANCIS & DOROTHY BLUM (Joey Kurtek)

Tuesday, November 24 – 9:00 a.m.

ANNETTE LIEBERMAN (David & Aradhna Kasper)

Wednesday, November 25 – NO MASS

Thursday, November 26 – NO MASS

Friday, November 27 – NO MASS

Saturday, November 28 – 5:00 p.m.

ERIKA STANGL SEASOCK (Mary Beth Harvey)

Sunday, November 29 – 8:15 a.m.

MARY MULDOWNEY (John, Cathy, Hannah Kostick)

Sunday, November 29 – 10:30 a.m.

SCOTT GLUNZ (Joyce Gerace)

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Annie Fabrizio by Family

St. Joseph – Wedding Anniversary

of Joe & Dorothy (Hahner) Stangl

Tabernacle - IMO Emily, Joyce, Leo Leinheiser Sr.

by Miriam Tirjan & Rosie Kenderes

Sanctuary

1. IMO Mary Hahner by Hahner Family

2. Special Intention

3. IMO Erika Stangl Seasock by Dorothy & Joe Stangl

4. IMO Emily, Joyce, Leo Leinheiser Sr.

by Miriam Tirjan & Rosie Kenderes

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Emily, Joyce, Leo Leinheiser Sr.

by Miriam Tirjan & Rosie Kenderes

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

November

22 CCD Class – 9 a.m. – in School

22 Confirmation Class – 6:30 p.m. – L.H.

26 **NO Thanksgiving Day Mass**

December

3 First Reconciliation Rehearsal – 7 p.m. in Church

4 First Friday Adoration 9 to 5 p.m. in Church

5 First Reconciliation – 10 a.m. – in Church

7/8 Feast of the Immaculate Conception-Holy Day

9 St. John's Beneficial Society – 8 p.m. – F.R.

13 Advent Holy Hour and Worship Night

20 CCD Class in School

Men's Gospel Reflection group meets **every Tuesday at 7 PM** on Zoom

The Glorious Mysteries of the Rosary are prayed live **every Wednesday at 8 PM** on our Facebook page.

** L.H. – Longinus Hall

** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room

** R.B. – Russell Building

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

Jesus asks us to care for the "least" as we would care for Him. Who are considered the "least" in your neighborhood?

Next Week's Readings

FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT (November 28/29)

Reading I: Isaiah 63:16b-17, 19b, 64:2-7

Reading II: 1 Corinthians 1:3-9

Gospel: Mark 13:33-37

PRAY FOR OUR SICK / DECEASED

We remember in prayer those who are ill. We commend to our Divine Lord all of our aged people and those residing in nursing homes.

Sick: *John Morgalis*. **Deceased:** *Anastasia Bulino*.

CEMETERY STATIONS OF THE CROSS

If you visited St. John's Cemetery at 20th & Mahantongo Streets, you may have noticed the Stations of the Cross are not there. We are in the process of having them refurbished. More details to follow ...

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 14/15: \$ 4,591.00

Parish Dues: \$ 1,095.00

We thank our parishioners for their sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

BEST ADVENT EVER

Prepare for Advent like never before with
BEST ADVENT EVER
by Dynamic Catholic.

Sign up, get free daily short videos to your
inbox that will help you prepare for
Christmas like never before. Visit
<https://www.dynamiccatholic.com/advent/best-advent-ever.html>

THANKSGIVING ... Thanksgiving memorializes the kindness and generosity that Native people showed toward the European colonists. In the United States, Thanksgiving is a day set aside for the entire nation to celebrate the gifts of God in their lives. It is a legal holiday that commemorates an event in history. Even a secular society finds the need to thank God and for all that has been given.

Parishes all over the country celebrate with liturgies of Thanksgiving and projects to help the needy. It is a time when those who have been blessed can show their gratitude by sharing their riches, spiritual and material with others. It is a time to remember the gifts that have been bestowed upon you and your families.

FAMILY MATTERS

Thanksgiving Day. We give thanks on this day for the many blessings God has bestowed on our families and on our parish community. We also are mindful of those who have less than we do and strive to help those most in need.

You pray for my family and I'll pray for yours.

--- ATTENTION ---

YOUNG ADULTS & YOUNG FAMILIES

Please like the Facebook page

"Schuylkill County Catholic

Young Adults and Young Families."

The purpose of this group is to connect one another across parishes and form a young adult community in our area.

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."

.... PLEASE NOTE

NO Masses are scheduled for the following days:
Wednesday, November 25th
Thursday, November 26th – Thanksgiving Day
Friday, November 27th

THE GIVING TREE

This weekend a barren tree is placed in the front of church adorned with gift tags. The gift tags will have suggestions for the needy in our area. If you are able, please take one. Return your gift wrapped with the gift tag on the outside, attached to the ribbon. Please return the package under the tree before the weekend of **December 5/6**. The tag is **very important** because it has the person's identity number on it.

Please Note: If you are not able to purchase the item on the gift tag, please return it to the tree.

PLEASE DO NOT TAPE TAG TO THE PAPER

 Our gifts to the needy of the area each year are our way of reaching out to those who have meant so much and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

GIFTS ARE DUE BACK before
DECEMBER 5/6 WEEKEND

PLEASE NOTE: If more than one item is listed on the tag ... You are asked to get one item ONLY.

SPONSOR OF THE WEEK

We appreciate advertisers who support St. John's by advertising in our bulletin. Please patronize their business and let them know you saw their ad in our bulletin.

Lowest Casket Prices
NEW Affordable Package Prices
Personalized Tributes
Uncompromised Service
Schlitzer-Allen-Pugh
FUNERAL HOME
6th & West Market • Pottsville • 622-7888
Brian D. Leffler, Supervisor/LFD
TributesOfLife.com

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- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
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- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good for Developing Loyal Customers

Parish Profile

DAVE DERBES

Dave Derbes has been the organist at St. John's for 33 years. He and his wife Maureen have been married for 34 years and have two daughters, Rebecca and Maureen. He has been involved with the men's choir, the Saturday night choir, Vacation Bible School, and the formation of the ensemble. In addition to playing the organ, Dave also plays the drums, timpani, xylophone, piano, guitar, banjo and ukulele. Along with liturgical music, Dave also enjoys playing bluegrass and Celtic music. He has also composed several pieces for our choirs.



How does music enrich your Catholic faith?

When I started playing the organ at St. John's I wasn't a Catholic. I was already coming to Mass every week with my wife. St. John's had a position open to be an organist and direct the men's choir, so I answered the call. From there, I enrolled in RCIA. Playing the organ brought me back to the Church. I strive to be the Lord's faithful servant by sharing His gift of music with our parish as we celebrate Mass together.

What is your favorite liturgical memory?

There was an ordination Mass we hosted about 15 years ago for Fr. Joe Narog. This was his home parish. We had never done anything like that before as a choir. I got to work with another priest who came up to the choir loft and he was helpful with some sections of the Mass with which we were unfamiliar.

Tell me about your favorite liturgical composition and the inspiration behind it.

We Come Here As Family I composed for the 125th anniversary of the parish. I wrote that in the car while on a drive from Pottsville to Ashland. I would use a tape recorder a lot to catch ideas and phrases for composition purposes. Finally, on that drive, it all clicked, and I stopped at an ice cream store in Ashland to write the whole hymn out. Father Henry was insistent that children should not be separated from their families in a cry room during Mass, so his belief in the importance of coming together as family was the inspiration for the piece. I have been humbled that so many people have commented on the piece or wanted a copy of it over the years. We continue to sing it for weddings, funerals and other events. Our parishioners have really made it their own.

Our parish profile is published monthly and highlights parishioners' lived experience of the Catholic faith through a parish ministry.

CHRIST LIFE: FOLLOWING CHRIST WEEK 7: GOING ON WITH THE LORD

- We need to realize we can't live out the Christian life by ourselves, and the Lord never intended us to.
 - We are called to share in Jesus' cross and trust that He will redeem our suffering.
 - We are called not only to be disciples, but to make disciples.
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November 22, 2020

Solemnity of Our Lord Jesus Christ, King of the Universe

Ez 34:11-12, 15-17 | 1 Cor 15:20-26, 28 | Mt 25:31-46

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

Today, we acknowledge and celebrate Christ the King. It's hard to put this royal image together with today's Gospel passage, where Jesus is not asking to be treated like a king, but rather instructing us to perform merciful deeds for the least of his brothers and sisters. Yet it is the perfect follow-on to the previous three Sundays' Scriptures, where Jesus tells us what it means to live a life of holiness, preparation, and faithful investment in the Kingdom. Now we see what awaits those of us who turn over our lives to him, seeing the face of Jesus in the least among us - the poor, the imprisoned, the thirsty, the stranger. "Come, you who are blessed by my Father. Inherit the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world."

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

I confess that judgment day readings scare me a little. Some days I behave more like a "goat" than a "sheep." Side note: After a deep dive into the Internet (did you know that sheep have 54 chromosomes and goats have 60?), I've concluded that Jesus isn't talking about farm animals here. He's talking about us humans and the choices we make or don't make through sins of omission. The list seems endless if I focus on all the things I *could* be doing to help others each and every day. Yet, rather than getting caught up in fear or guilt, today's readings encourage me, and remind me, that Jesus has told us what we need to do to be counted as "sheep" on the last day.

ACTIONS:

- Choose one corporal work of mercy today and act on it. What does it look like to "visit the sick"? Donate blood; make food for someone who isn't feeling well; check in on an elderly neighbor.
- Do you know some "sheep" - people who radiate faith and kindness to others? Just as you might network with a professional in your field, invite that person out for coffee. Ask them about their faith and how it inspires them in their daily lives.



REJOICE! ADVENT MISSION



**SPIRITUAL
PREPARATION
FOR
ADVENT**

This Advent, we invite you on a transformational journey with Mary and Joseph as they await the birth of their son, the Savior of the world. Rejoice! will help you open your heart to the peace and joy of the Holy Family as you prepare for the coming of Jesus this Christmas.

The Rejoice! program includes an inspirational journal and weekly online videos to enrich your Advent. Our parish has ordered 100 copies of the journal. Participation in this mission is available as an individual or in an online small group.

Please call the rectory 570-622-5470 or email stjbparish@comcast.net to reserve a journal and join a small group.

Visit rejoiceprogram.com for access to the videos and for more information.
