



St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

Established in 1841

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

FIRST SUNDAY IN ADVENT NOVEMBER 29TH 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 we usher in a new church year with the season of Advent. This first Sunday of Advent reminds us to be ever watchful for our God who comes to us in ordinary circumstances.

The prophet Isaiah speaks of the longing of the people of Israel for God's return and help in times of trouble: "That He would rend the heavens and come down," such that the mountains would quake and awesome deeds take place. Perhaps like Isaiah we long for God to perform a breathtaking miracle that would make us sit up and notice.

In the gospel for this Sunday Jesus tells His disciples "Be watchful, be alert, for you know not the day when the Lord is coming."

This season of Advent gives us the opportunity to take time to pray – to sharpen our vision of God's presence in our daily lives.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave

MASS INTENTIONS

Monday, November 30 – 9:00 a.m.

CHARLES & MATILDA SCHAEFFER
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

Tuesday, December 1 – 9:00 a.m.

MARY HAHNER (Mary Jane Hahner)

Wednesday, December 2 – 9:00 a.m.

CLARA ROSE FAHIM (Ron & Pat Lombel)

Thursday, December 3 – 9:00 a.m.

BETH THOMAS RESNECK

(Pat, Missy, Amy Scheetz)

Friday, December 4 – 9:00 a.m.

DOROTHY LOTZ (Gerry Freeman)

Saturday, December 5 – 5:00 p.m.

LOUISE DELANEY (Scott Williams)

Sunday, December 6 – 8:15 a.m.

JOHN & ANNIE MORGALIS

(John & Mary Jean Morgalis)

Sunday, December 6 – 10:30 a.m.

MICHAEL & ANNA FEDOCK

(Jim & Donna Pugh Family)

QUESTION OF THE WEEK

How can you be more alert
to God's presence this Advent?

Next Week's Readings

SECOND SUNDAY OF ADVENT (December 5/6)

Reading I: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Reading II: 2 Peter 3:8-14

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

CHRISTMAS MASS SCHEDULE

Mass times for Christmas are as
follows:

December 24th

2 p.m. -- 4 p.m. -- 6 p.m. -- 9 p.m.

December 25th

10 a.m.

Mass attendance is by reservation
ONLY.

Sign-ups in the back of church.

Please specify:

Mass Time / Number attending
Cell Phone Number / email address

SACRAMENT OF RECONCILIATION

Saturday	December 19	4:15 to 4:45 p.m.
Sunday	December 20	7:45 to 8:00 a.m.
Sunday	December 20	10:00 to 10:15 a.m.
Sunday	December 20	4:00 to 5 p.m.
Monday	December 21	7:00 to 8:00 p.m.
Tuesday	December 22	6 to 7 p.m.

GOING TO CONFESSION



The Church designates this Advent Season of preparation as an important time to receive the sacrament of Penance also known as the Sacrament of Reconciliation. In this sacrament, we examine our life and we seek forgiveness for those things, those actions that keep us from letting the Lord more deeply in our heart.

CANDLE DONATIONS

BVM – IMO Ronald F. Pillo by Steve & Chris Zanis

St. Joseph – IMO David A. Zanis by Steve & Chris Zanis

Tabernacle - Special Intention

Sanctuary

1. Living & Deceased of

St. John's Catholic Women's Union

2. IMO Mary Rinaldo by Chuck Rinaldo & Family

3. IMO Edward Kuperavage by Steve & Chris Zanis

4. Health & Welfare of Sandy Frinzi

by Barbara Wollyung

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Charles Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer

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>

FIRST RECONCILIATION



On **Saturday, December 5th at 10 a.m.**, our third grade children will celebrate the ***Sacrament of Penance*** for the first time. Please remember them and their families in your prayers as they learn to grow in acceptance of the great gift of God's forgiveness

given to us in this important sacrament.

First Reconciliation Practice is scheduled for:
Thursday, December 3rd at 7 p.m. in church.
****A parent must attend ****

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, Helen Hufnagle.*

Deceased: *Anastasia Bulino.*

CHRISTMAS WAFERS "OPLATKI"

What are Oplatki? For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, the Czech and Slav Republics have practiced a beautiful tradition. It is the breaking and sharing of the Oplatek – Christmas Wafer. Oplatek taken from the Latin word oblatum, meaning Sacred Bread, has been the symbol of Christianity and Jesus Christ our bread of life since the Last Supper.

The host or hostess leads in a special prayer and distributes an oplatek to the participants. Each person breaks off a piece of the other's oplatek and continues until they have exchanged good wishes and blessings with everyone. **Oplatki are available at the Rectory.**

WEEKLY COLLECTION

November 21/22: \$ 3,898.00

Poverty Relief: \$ 820.00

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

ADVENT

The word **Advent** is from the Latin *adventus* for "coming" and is associated with the four weeks of preparation for Christmas. **Advent** always contains four Sundays, beginning on the Sunday nearest the feast of St. Andrew the Apostle, (November 30) and continuing until December 24. It blends together a penitential spirit, very similar to Lent, a liturgical theme of preparation for the Second and Final Coming of the Lord, called the Parousia, and a joyful theme of getting ready for the Bethlehem event.

Since the 900s **Advent** has been considered the beginning of the Church year. This does not mean that **Advent** is the most important time of the year. Easter has always had this honor.

The traditional color of **Advent** is bluish purple which symbolizes the penitential spirit. Religious traditions associated with **Advent** express all these themes.

ADVENT WREATH

"Customarily the **Advent Wreath** is constructed of a circle of evergreen branches into which are inserted four candles (advent candles). According to tradition, three of the candles are bluish purple and the fourth is rose. However, bluish violet or white candles (advent candles) may also be used".

The rose candle is lit the third Sunday of Advent, for this color anticipates and symbolizes the Christmas joy announced in the first word of the Entrance Antiphon: "Rejoice". For this reason the Third Sunday is also called Gaudete Sunday, and rose color vestments are permitted.

The **Advent Wreath** represents the long time when people lived in spiritual darkness, waiting for the coming of the Messiah, the Light of the world. Each year in **Advent** people wait once again in darkness for the coming of the Lord, His historical coming in the mystery of Bethlehem, His final coming at the end of time, and His special coming in every moment of grace.

During **Advent**, family and friends can gather around the **Advent Wreath** lighting the appropriate candle(s), read from the daily **Advent** meditation and sing songs. The Church's official Book of Blessings also provides a blessing ceremony for the **Advent Wreath** which can be used in the absence of a priest.

JESSIE TREE

During **Advent**, biblical persons representing the ancestors of Jesus, either in faith or bloodline, are gradually added onto a tree or branch, named after the father of David. The symbols such as Adam, Noah, Abraham, Isaac, Jacob, Moses, Jesse, David, Solomon, Joseph and Mary can be drawn, cut out or purchased.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY FATHER DAVE

The Parish Family of St. John's
Congratulates Father Dave on his
"Twenty-third Anniversary"
with us on **December 2nd**.
We wish you continued enjoyment
and happiness as you begin your
24th year as Pastor here at St. John's.

--- 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.

2021 CALENDARS: Church calendars for the
New Year will be available sometime in December.
Please feel free to take one, but please make sure they
are not wasted. We wish to thank the **James E.
Humphrey Funeral Home** for taking care of this
expense.

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.

Total Accessibility LLC

ACORN Stairlifts

PRIDE Mobility Scooters & Accessories

Handicapped Ramps – Wheelchair Lifts & Carriers

570-622-7785

570-490-7750

Why Advertise In A Church Bulletin?

- * It's inexpensive Advertising
- * It's Effective in Catching New Neighbors' Attention
- * It's Advertising Concentrated in Your Neighborhood
- * It Develops Good Community Relationships
- * It's Good for Developing Loyal Customers

THE GIVING TREE

A barren tree has been 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 by 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 by
DECEMBER 5/6 WEEKEND**

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

UPCOMING MEETINGS/EVENTS

December

- 3 First Reconciliation Rehearsal –7 p.m. in Church
- 4 Friday Adoration 9:30-10:30 & 4-5 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 – 5 p.m. in Church
- 19/20 Homemade Food Sale after all Masses – L.H.
- 20 CCD Class in School
- 24 Christmas Masses: 2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.
- 25 Christmas Day Mass 10 a.m.

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

Live Rosary cast will be prayed every **Wednesday** and
Saturday during Advent at **8 p.m.** on our Facebook
page.

**** L.H. – Longinus Hall**

**** F.R. – Rectory Fellowship Room**

**** R.B. – Russell Building**

NEW BULLETIN

Diocesan Publications will be our bulletin publisher starting in December. The bulletin will have a new look and it will be printed in color. It will be available at Mass, on our website, and on DiscoverMass.com.

OUTREACH COMMITTEE

Please contact the rectory if you are able to be part of our parish outreach team. We will be ministering to those who are especially affected by the pandemic.

ADVENT HOLY HOUR

Candlelight adoration • Advent hymns • Scriptural meditations
Sunday, December 13 at 5 p.m. in Church

FIRST FRIDAY ADORATION

Friday, December 4 from 9:30 – 10:30 a.m. and 4:00 – 5:00 p.m.
Evening Prayer and Benediction begin at 5:00 p.m.

HOLIDAY HOMEMADE FOOD SALE

Featuring many items from our Lenten Fish Dinners

Halupkies, Macaroni & Cheese, Clam Chowder,
ready-to-bake lump Crab Cakes

December 19th from 3 to 6:30 p.m. & December 20th after Masses until sell out

CHRIST LIFE RECAP

- Over 40 parishioners completed our in-person and online 7-week Following Christ series
 - Here's what our participants had to say about their experience:
 - "I feel closer than ever before to Jesus and feel the Holy Spirit is guiding my life. I want to continue to learn more."
 - "I have grown tremendously in being comfortable praying with others when this was a huge fear in my life."
 - "Following Christ has reminded me of many things in my faith that I had forgotten."
 - "I liked that we received concrete, practical ideas to have a better prayer life."
 - Sharing Christ, the third installment of the Christ Life series will begin in February 2021, and will be open to parishioners who completed the Following Christ course
 - Later in 2021, we will offer the Discovering Christ course for the second time and anyone is welcome to signup.
-

This edition of the bulletin will end November 30.

First Sunday of Advent

Is 63:16B-17, 19B; 64:2-7, 1 Cor 1:3-9, Mk 13:33-37

GROW: Sometimes I grow nostalgic for the laid-back Advents of my childhood: making a list for Santa, digging into the perforated cardboard Advent calendar for chocolate for breakfast, and lighting the Advent wreath (fire!) each Sunday. We all know, however, that the season can quickly become usurped by things to do – shopping, family, cleaning, etc. Today's readings remind us that this is not what Advent is about. The tone in our Scriptures which begin the Advent season is not subtle. Isaiah asks God to return, to “rend the heavens and come down” – to save and deliver his people. The psalm is equally adamant: “Lord, make us turn to you.” We, as a Church, are waiting for the fullness of the Kingdom on earth, and we must prepare.

GO: I'm a cradle Catholic, but for me, Advent was always about waiting to celebrate the birth of Christ. I love pulling out the Nativity scene and lighting the candles each week leading to the celebration of Christ's birth. Only in recent years have I grown in awareness of the dual meaning of Advent – that we Christians also are waiting for Christ's Second Coming at the end of time. I admit, it's always seemed to me something far into the future and perhaps not applicable to my lifetime here on earth. However, as Jesus reminds us in the Gospel, “You do not know when the Lord of the house is coming.” And while this is true, it not something to fear, but something to prepare for and look forward to! We wait in joyful hope, asking for the grace to remain faithful to our baptism and to live in a way that makes Christ's presence known to others.

STUDY: Remember the pre-pandemic holidays? Chances are, you've got some extra time on your hands this season. Why not use it to take a deeper dive into Advent this year, by participating in an online Bible study or reading and praying with the Scriptures each day of Advent.
