

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts., Pottsville, Pa. 17901 • [www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

November 28, 2021



# Advent

*~ a time for preparation ~*



## Mass Intentions

### Saturday, November 27

5:00 p.m. Carl & Ada Hahner  
(Dorothy, Butch, Lois,  
Carolyn, Bob)

### Sunday, November 28

8:15 a.m. Janet Bartholomew  
Whitaker  
(Rita & Ellen Foley  
Jason & Jared Fedor)

### Sunday, November 28

10:30 a.m. Juleanne Steffan  
(Steffan Family)

### Monday, November 29

6:30 p.m. John & Ann Marie  
**(Time Change)** Urbanavage  
(Pat Klassen)

### Tuesday, November 30

9:00 a.m. Charles & Matilda Schaeffer  
(Eleanor Schaeffer)

### Wednesday, December 1

9:00 a.m. Joan Steficek  
(Reene Reddington)

### Thursday, December 2

6:30 p.m. Marie Fitzpatrick  
**(Time Change)** (Donna Bound Steidle)

### Friday, December 3

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

### Saturday, December 4

5:00 p.m. Louise Delaney  
(Kathleen Williams)

### Sunday, December 5

8:15 a.m. George Smith  
(Phil & Carol Lasco)

### Sunday, December 5

10:30 a.m. Mike & Anna Fedock  
(Jim & Donna Pugh Family)

## Next Week's Readings

Second Sunday of Advent (December 11/12)

**Reading I:** Baruch 5:1-9

**Reading II:** Philippians 1:4-6, 8-11

**Gospel:** Luke 3:1-6

## Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Here we are: Advent – perhaps the most “exciting” season of the Church year because it is all about anticipating Christmas.

In reality, though, Advent is not just about Christmas. A lot of people do not realize (or perhaps forget) that Advent is more about preparing for the *Second Coming* of Jesus in the future, at the end of the world. The prayers and readings of the season do not point to Christmas (the *past* coming of Jesus) until the final part of the season: December 17-24.

Meanwhile, we are challenged to look forward to the future coming of Jesus. Or, if the end of the world seems too distant, to look forward to the moment when we will each meet Jesus face-to-face at the time of our death. This should not be a morbid thought, or something to be feared. Rather, a Christian is a person of hope who looks forward to the coming of Jesus with joy. The coming of Jesus at the end of the world means complete victory over sin and evil, the end of suffering and death, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal life in God's Kingdom.

As we experience the joy of Christmas, we need to keep in mind that Christmas is not just a celebration of something that happened in the past. Every Christmas we celebrate brings us closer to the future we should look forward to with hope and joy.

*In Christ,  
Fr. Bobbin*



*Year of Real*  
**PRESENCE**  
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

## 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

*Patricia Thomas • Sheri Post*

### Advent Season.

Do you have a favorite custom for the Advent season? Have you considered starting a new tradition? Plan on using this activity as a way for your family to grow closer to Jesus in this time of preparation and waiting.

# Upcoming Events

## November

- 28 11:30 a.m. CCD Community Mtg ..... L.H. / Church
- 29 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
- 30 9:30 a.m. Consecration to Mary ..... Chapel

## December

- 1 6:00 p.m. Catholic Women’s Christmas Party..... Blu Tavern
- 2 7:00 p.m. First Friday Holy Hour ..... Church
- 3 7:00 p.m. First Reconciliation Rehearsal ..... Church
- 4 10:00 a.m. First Reconciliation..... Church
- 5 9:15 a.m. Parent Meeting ..... L.H.
- 7 9:30 a.m. Consecration to Mary ..... Chapel
- 8 9:00 a.m. Mass—Feast of the Immaculate Conception ..... Church
- 8 5:15 p.m. Mass—Feast of the Immaculate Conception ..... Church
- 12 1:00 p.m. Joyful Mysteries—Advent Reflection..... Church
- 19 11:30 a.m. Community Meeting ..... L.H.
- 20 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
- 24 4:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ..... Church
- 24 6:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ..... Church
- 24 10:00 p.m. Christmas Eve Mass ..... Church
- 25 10:00 a.m. Christmas Day Mass..... Church

**L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building**  
 Tues. 7:15 p.m. Weekly Men’s Group ..... Zoom  
 Meeting ID: 824-780-6433 ..... Password: Mary



## Eucharistic Adoration

Join us on **Thursday, December 2nd** for 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.

## Congratulations

**Congratulations** to our parishioner, **John Matulevich**, who is a candidate preparing to become a permanent deacon. Last Sunday John and his classmates received the Ministry of Lector at the cathedral in Allentown. The Ministry of Lector is a step towards ordination in which the Church permanently entrusts the candidates with the responsibility of proclaiming God's Word.



## Candles

### BVM

- 1. IMO Mary Tamburelli Hilbert by Herb Tamburelli
- 2. IMO Juleanne Steffan by Steffan Family

### St. Joseph

- 1 & 2. St. John’s Parish Family

### Sanctuary

- IMO Juleanne Steffan by Steffan Family

### Guardian Angels

- 1. IMO Charles Schaeffer by Eleanor Schaeffer
- 2,3,4. Special Intentions

## Liturgical Minister

### Schedule

#### December 4— 5 p.m. Mass

- Reader:** Carol Lasco
- Euch.Min.:** Dan & Hermine Murphy
- Servers:** Lukas & Finley McNamara

#### December 5— 8:15 a.m. Mass

- Reader:** Ann Blankenhorn
- Euch.Min.:** John Corbacio
- Server:** Riley Doyle

#### December 5—10:30 a.m. Mass

- Reader:** Jen Daubert
- Euch.Min.:** Joyce Gerace
- Server:** Jackson Daubert

## Banns of Marriage

- I—Alexandra Disabella & Matthew Thomas

## 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.

## Contemporary Music Ensemble

We are looking for new members! We are interested in both singers and instrumentalists. Commitment is minimal (2-3 hours per month) and musical experience/reading music is NOT required. Children and families are encouraged! We encourage parishioners who are interested in making a joyful noise to the Lord! Please email or call the rectory to join us! See you in the choir loft!

## 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. Please email or call the rectory for more information.

## Pecans

The Catholic Women's Union still has pecans for sale. Mammoth Halves—\$15.00 per pound. Please call the Rectory for more info 570-622-5470.

*First Sunday*

Stay awake! For you do not know on which day your Lord will come.

Matthew 24:42



## 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.

## The Joyful Mysteries: An Advent Reflection

... will be offered by Fr. Bobbin on **Sunday, December 12, from 1 to 3 p.m.** in the main church. Join us for an afternoon of talks, music, and prayer to help you prepare for Christmas. There is no cost and no need to register in advance.



## The Giving Tree

Helping Those in Need



reaching out to those who have meant so much and saying we love them and wish them the blessings of Christmas.

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 before the weekend of December 4/5. The tag is very important because it has the person's identity number on it. 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 each year to the needy of the area are our way of

## Catholic Women's Christmas Party

Attention Catholic Women's Union Members. Our Annual Christmas Party will take place on Wednesday, **December 1st** at the Blu Tavern at 6 p.m. Cost is \$25.00.

Menu choices: Stuffed Chicken Breast with filling or Broiled Haddock with Lemon or Virginia Baked Ham. We will also exchange a \$10.00 gift — please wrap your item.

For more information please call the Rectory at 570-622-5470 ext. 3.

November 28, 2021

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

# First Sunday of Advent

Jer 33:14-16 | 1 Thes 3:12-4:2 | Lk 21:25-28,34-36

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

As the days grow shorter and darker, I am especially ready for Advent wreaths and nativity sets; sparkling lights and singing angels. More than ever, I eagerly anticipate the joyful celebration of Christ's birth. But today's readings for the first Sunday of Advent point us to the end of time, when Jesus returns in glory. Wait a minute, what? I don't want to think about the dismay and fright that Jesus foretells in the Gospel, I want to think about shepherds and holy nights. We really can't do one without the other, however, and the underlying message of the readings is one of hope and reassurance: Our God keeps his promises. He is faithful to the covenants he makes. He loves us so much; he offers us new beginnings. Our God became one of us, died to save us, and will give us the strength to be ready to greet him when he comes again. "Stand erect and raise your heads because your redemption is at hand," Jesus says. Pray that our preparation for Christ's birth will make us all the more ready for his return.

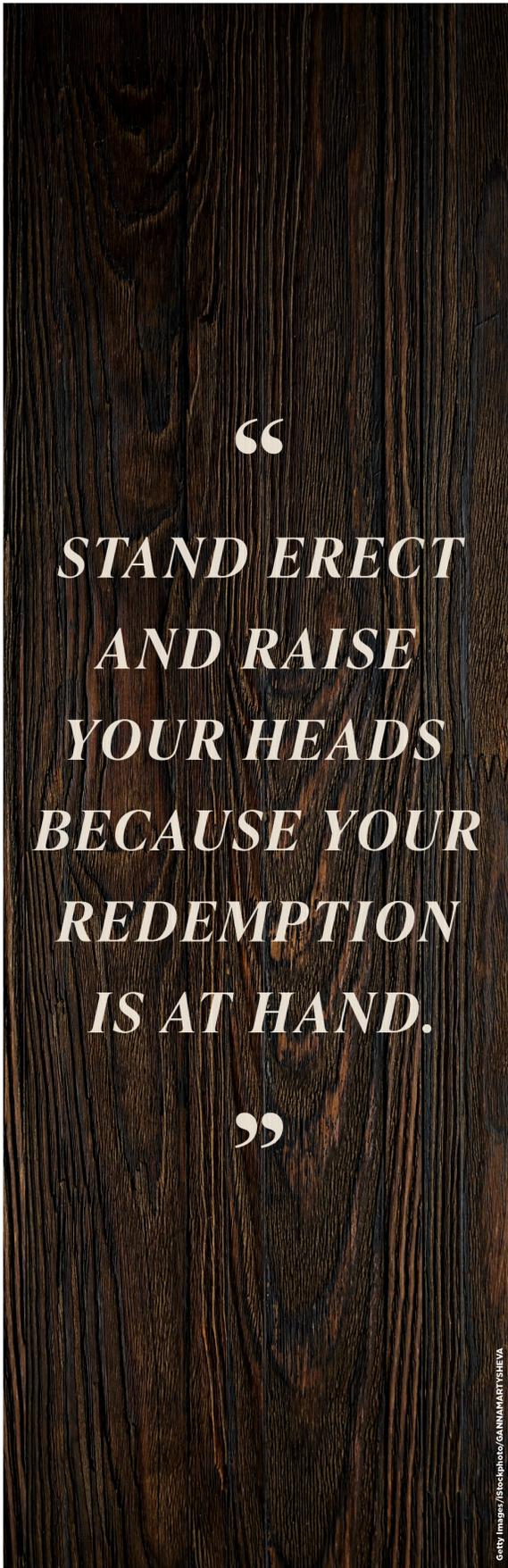
## GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

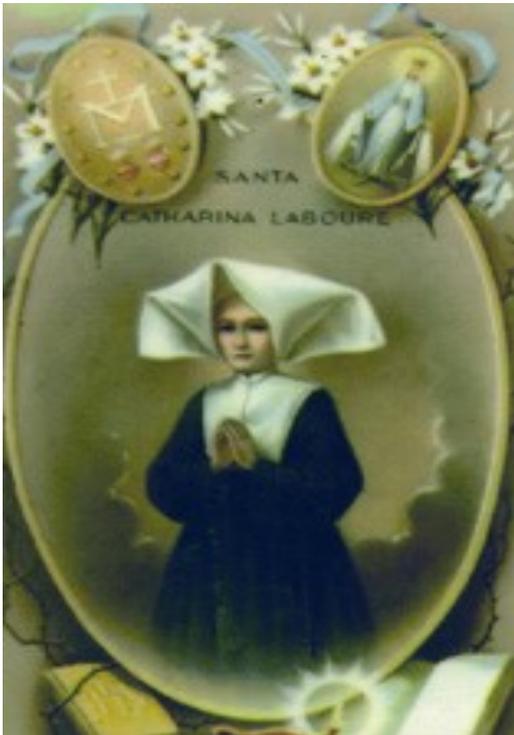
We are a society and culture that focuses a lot on the outward signs of preparation, and there is a lot of pressure to make it all perfect. Pinterest boards, social media groups, magazine photos, clothing catalogs: all show perfectly dressed people with perfectly adorable dogs standing in front of exquisitely perfect Christmas trees, on perfectly unblemished snow. But perfection on the exterior is not the Christian goal. Our interior preparation - how we make ourselves ready for Christ now, and at the end of time - is the focus of Advent. It is an opportunity for repentance, and a joyful new beginning in our relationship with God. It is a time to recommit ourselves to the covenant he made with us, and the psalm and the second reading offer assistance in doing so. Make time each day to dive in and explore what Scripture reveals about "conducting yourselves to please God."

**PRAY** Pray the psalm from the first Sunday of Advent each morning. Ask God to open your heart to ways you can be more just. He will teach you, guide you, and strengthen your heart so that you can stand upright to face whatever challenges come your way.

Your ways, O LORD, make known to me;  
teach me your paths,  
Guide me in your truth and teach me,  
for you are God my savior,  
and for you I wait all the day.



Getty Images/iStockphoto/GANNAMARTYSHEVA



## Saint Catherine Labouré

St. Catherine Labouré was born in France on May 2, 1806 as the ninth of 11 children to Pierre and Madeleine Labouré.

In 1815, Catherine's mother passed away, leaving her 9-year-old daughter with the responsibility of caring for the household. After her mother's funeral, Catherine returned home and picked up a statue of the Blessed Virgin. Holding it close, she said, "Now you will be my mother."

Growing up, Catherine was known for being a quiet and practical child, though she was extremely devout.

A couple of years after her mother's death, Catherine experienced a dream of an old priest motioning her to a room of sick people. "It is a good deed to look after the sick. God has designs on you. Do not forget it."

Years later, during a visit to the Daughters of Charity hospital, Catherine saw a picture of the old priest on the wall. She discovered it was of their founder, St. Vincent de Paul. Catherine immediately knew she would become a member of St. Vincent's order. In January 1830, Catherine Labouré entered the novitiate of the Daughters of Charity.

Months later, on July 19, 1830, Catherine woke from her sleep after hearing a child's voice calling her to the chapel as the Blessed Virgin Mary was waiting for her. As Catherine approached the chapel, the door swung open revealing a brilliant light. The Blessed Virgin told Catherine she would be given a mission with all the graces necessary to complete it. Our Lady said, "God wishes to charge you with a mission. You will be contradicted, but do not fear; you will have the grace to do what is necessary. Tell your spiritual director all that passes within you. Times are evil in France and in the world."

In November 1830, the Blessed Mother visited Catherine a second time during evening meditations. She showed herself inside an oval frame, standing upon a globe with rays of light coming from her hands toward the globe. Around the frame were the words, "O Mary, conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee."

Mary asked Catherine to take these images to her father confessor, Father Jean Marie Aladel, telling him they should be placed on medallions. "All who wear them will receive great graces." At first, the priest did not believe Catherine, but after two years, he brought her story to the Archbishop. The Archbishop ordered 2,000 medals struck.

The medals were dispersed so rapidly and effectively it was said to be miraculous.

Catherine Labouré spent the next 40 years of her life caring for the elderly, sick and disabled.

On December 31, 1876, Catherine passed away at 70-years-old. Her body was encased in glass beneath the side altar in the Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal in Paris.

Her body was discovered to be incorrupt after being exhumed in 1933. She was beatified by Pope Pius XI on May 28, 1933 and canonized by Pope Pius XII on July 27, 1947.

St. Catherine Labouré is often shown with the Daughters of Charity habit and the Miraculous Medal.

**Feastday:** November 28

**Patron:** the elderly, infirmed people and the Miraculous Medal

**Birth:** May 2, 1806

**Death:** December 31, 1867

**Beatified:** May 28, 1933 by Pope Pius XI

**Canonized:** July 27, 1947 by Pope Pius XII

**Parochial Administrator** ..... *Rev. Kevin J. Bobbin*  
**Deacon**.....*Lawrence Lonergan*

**Parish Council President** .....*Robert Bechtel*  
**Choir Director/Organist** .....*David Derbes*  
**CCD Coordinator**..... *Lucilla Kochol*

**Rectory** .....(570) 622-5470  
**Rectory Fax**.....(570) 622-4589  
**E-mail**..... stjbparish@comcast.net  
**Russell Building** .....(570) 628-3002  
**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**

Tuesday 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**

First Sunday of each month..... 11:30 a.m.  
Second Sunday ..... 10:30 a.m. Mass  
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@allentowndioocese.org



*Advent* is a time of  
Hopeful longing, Joyful expectation,  
Prayerful penance and Spiritual  
*Preparation.*