

# St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

10<sup>th</sup> & Mahantongo Sts. • Pottsville, Pa. 17901

[www.saintjohnpottsville.org](http://www.saintjohnpottsville.org)

**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  
**E-mail**..... [stjbparish@comcast.net](mailto:stjbparish@comcast.net)  
**Nativity BVM High School**..... (570) 622-8110  
**Rectory Fax** ..... (570) 622-4589  
**Assumption BVM Elementary**..... (570) 622-0106  
**Russell Building** ..... (570) 628-3002  
**St. Joseph Center**..... (570) 622-4638

## Cemetery Information

John Consugar..... (570) 449-1675

## 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 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](mailto:prusso@allentowndiocese.org)

Second Sunday of Advent • December 6<sup>th</sup>, 2020



## Mass Intentions

### Monday, December 7

9:00 a.m. William Stoppi  
(Marianne Leal)  
5:15 p.m. Eugene Gustitis  
(Betty & Pat Elko)

### Tuesday, December 8

9:00 a.m. Deceased of Kurtek and  
Blum Families  
(Joey Kurtek)

### Wednesday, December 9

No 9:00 a.m. Mass

### Thursday, December 10

No 9:00 a.m. Mass

### Friday, December 11

9:00 a.m. George Hahner Sr.  
(Scott Hahner)

### Saturday, December 12

5:00 p.m. Wellington Daubert  
(Janet Daubert)

### Sunday, December 13

8:15 a.m. Marie Fitzpatrick  
(Don & Joanne Doyne)  
10:30 a.m. Scott Rhoades  
(Carol Rhoades)

## From the Pastor

Dear Parishioners,

In the scripture readings for the second Sunday of Advent the Prophet Isaiah speaks for the Lord in giving comfort to his people, proclaiming the service of Jerusalem at an end — and that her guilt is expiated. They are to prepare the way of the Lord, for the glory of the Lord shall be revealed and He will shepherd them with care. In the gospel, John the Baptist heralds the coming of Jesus as he exhorts his listeners to turn away from sin and to be baptized.

On this second Sunday of Advent the voice of God breaks into our world through the sacred Scripture and witnesses of modern day disciples. Does it resound and echo in our thoughts, words, actions, forming and shaping our lives? Or is it dulled and dim by our worldly ways? Now is the time to listen. Now is the time to act, for the Kingdom of God is at hand.

As I'm sure you noticed, our bulletin has changed. We now have Diocesan Publications publishing our bulletin which was previously done in house. This new bulletin allows us to have a lot more flexibility and also the feature of full color. We hope that you enjoy this new bulletin and find it informational and easy to read. Special thanks to Bobby Rienzo for setting up the details of the bulletin and working with the bulletin company.

Yours in Christ,

Father Dave



## Advent Holy Hour

Join us on Sunday, December 13 at 5 p.m. for an evening of candlelight adoration, Advent music, and meditations on the Stations of the Nativity. Similar to the Stations of the Cross, the fourteen Stations of the Nativity highlight events in Scripture leading up to the birth of the infant Christ.

## Pray

### For Our Sick

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.

*Helen Hufnagle*

## Next Week's Readings

Third Sunday of Advent (December 12/13)

**Reading I:** Isaiah 61:1-2a, 10-11

**Reading II:** 1 Thessalonians 5:16-24

**Gospel:** John 1:6-8, 19-28





## Upcoming Events

### December

7/8		Solemnity of the Immaculate Conception Masses
9	8:00 p.m.	St. John's Beneficial Society .....F.R.
13	5:00 p.m.	Advent Holy Hour ..... Church
13	6:30 p.m.	Confirmation Class .....L.H.
14	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council ..... L.H.
19	3:00 p.m.	Holiday Food Sale (until 6:30 p.m.) ..... R.B.
20	9:00 a.m.	Holiday Food Sale (until sell out) ..... R.B.
20	9:00 a.m.	CCD Classes ..... School
20	4:00 p.m.	Reconciliation ..... Church
21	7:00 p.m.	Reconciliation ..... Church
22	6:00 p.m.	Reconciliation ..... Church
24		Christmas Eve Masses (2 p.m., 4 p.m., 6 p.m., 9 p.m.)
25		Christmas Day Mass (10 a.m.)

L.H. = Longinus Hall F.R. = Rectory Fellowship Room R.B. = Russell Building

Tues.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Men's Group	Zoom
Wed.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook
Sat.	7:00 p.m.	Weekly Rosary	Facebook

Facebook Page: St. John The Baptist Catholic Parish Family

## Don't forget to sign up to attend Christmas Mass.

Due to capacity restrictions and the anticipated crowd, Mass attendance at all Christmas Masses is by reservation only. Sign up in the back of Church to reserve a seat for your household.



## Retirement Fund for Religious

In good times and bad, senior Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have dedicated themselves to service and acts of mercy. Today, they pray for an aching world. Yet years of serving for little or no pay have left their religious communities without enough retirement savings. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps provide medications, nursing care, and other necessities. Please be generous.



## Weekly Collection

**November 29/30 ..... \$4,800.39**  
**Youth Ministry ..... \$ 634.00**

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

## Christmas Envelopes

The Christmas envelope again this year can be found in your recent envelope packet for December and January. There will be no special mailing of the Christmas envelope. If you do not receive regular envelopes or did not receive a Christmas envelope in the mail, they are available on the tables in the rear of church.

Once again, we ask for your generous support in the Christmas collection. May we suggest a \$35.00 Christmas donation to the parish. If you can afford to give more, it is greatly appreciated. Once again, thank you for your continued generosity.

## Children's Box Envelopes

If your child(ren) would like to receive a box of weekly contribution envelopes for 2021, please contact the rectory.

## Candle Donations

<b>BVM</b>	IMO Amelia Androsko (Joanne Wood)
<b>St. Joseph</b>	IMO R.J. Post (Bob & Irene Post)
<b>Tabernacle</b>	IMO Lorrie Cunningham (Christine Tray )
<b>Sanctuary</b>	IMO Leo & Dorothy Lotz (Ron & Pat Lombel) In thanksgiving (anonymous) IMO Mary Eileen Grabowski (Stan & Geri Grabowski) IMO John Sninsky (Stan & Geri Grabowski)

**GuardianAngels** In thanksgiving  
(Irene Post)  
IMO M/M Richard H. Weiss  
(Becky Weiss)

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## ON JORDAN'S BANK



1. On Jor - dan's bank the Bap - tist's cry An -
2. Then cleansed be ev - 'ry soul from sin; Make
3. We hail you as our Sav - ior, Lord, Our
4. To heal the sick stretch out your hand, And
5. To God the Son all glo - ry be, Whose



1. nounc - es that the Lord is nigh; A - wake and heark-en,
2. straight the way of God with - in, And let each heart pre -
3. ref - uge, and our great re - ward; With - out your grace we
4. bid the fall - en sin - ner stand; Shine forth, and let your
5. ad - vent set your peo - ple free; Whom with the Fa - ther



1. for he brings Glad tid - ings of the King of kings.
2. pare a home, Where such a might - y guest may come.
3. waste a - way Like flow'rs that with - er and de - cay.
4. light re - store Earth's own true love - li - ness once more.
5. we a - dore, And Ho - ly Spir - it, ev - er - more.

## RESPONSORIAL PSALM

*Psalm 85:9-10, 11-12, 13-14*

**R. Lord,** let us see your kind - ness, and grant us your sal - va - tion.

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## COMFORT, COMFORT, O MY PEOPLE



1. Com - fort, com - fort, O my peo - ple, Speak of peace, now
2. Hark, the voice of one who's cry - ing In the des - ert
3. O make straight what long was crook - ed, Make the rough - er



1. says our God; Com - fort those who sit in dark - ness,
2. far and near, Bid - ding all to full re - pent - ance
3. plac - es plain; Let your hearts be true and hum - ble,



1. Mourn - ing 'neath their sor - rows' load. Speak un - to Je - ru - sa -
2. Since the king - dom now is here. O that warn - ing cry o -
3. As be - fits his ho - ly reign. For the glo - ry of the



1. lem Of the peace that waits for them; Tell of all the
2. bey! Now pre - pare for God a way; Let the val - leys
3. Lord Now o'er earth is shed a - broad; And all flesh shall



1. sins I cov - er, And that war - fare now is o - ver.
2. rise to meet him And the hills bow down to greet him.
3. see the to - ken That his word is nev - er bro - ken.





December 6, 2020 | Second Sunday of Advent

Is 40:1-5, 9-11 | 2 Pt 3:8-14 | Mk 1:1-8

Written by  
THE  
FAITHFUL  
DISCIPLE

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

For kids, the weeks before Christmas seem to drag on forever; for many adults, they zip by way too fast ("Second week of Advent, already? Oh my!"). Fortunately for us, God is outside of time – he does not experience the temporal moments as we do. "With the Lord one day is like a thousand years and a thousand years like one day," Peter writes. "The Lord does not delay his promise, as some regard 'delay,' but he is patient with you." Just as we have the Advent season to prepare to celebrate Christ's birth, God gives us ample time to repent of our sins and grow in "holiness and devotion" as we prepare for his Second Coming. During this rich liturgical season of Advent, let us help prepare the way of the Lord through our words and actions.

## GO EVANGELIZE

### PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Preparation. Preparedness. We use these words in Advent to mark our patient waiting for Jesus to come into our world. But while we are waiting, it is fitting to remember Peter's question in the second reading: "What sort of persons ought you to be?" That is not simply an Advent question. And the answer is relevant to all days and times of life: Conduct yourselves with "holiness and devotion." Right living and loving God and neighbor never go out of style. They are the answer to everything. Make wise choices. And, like John the Baptist, "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths." And perhaps one day, we can be transformed into the people God created us to be.

**WITNESS** Today's psalmist prays: "Lord, let us see your kindness." This Advent, be conscientious about your everyday interactions with the people around you, making God's kindness visible and known to them.

## PEOPLE, LOOK EAST

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1. Peo - ple, look East. The time is near Of the
2. Fur - rows, be glad, though earth is bare. One more
3. Birds, though you long have ceased to build, Guard the
4. Stars, keep the watch when night is dim. One more
5. An - gels, an - nounce on this great feast: Him who



1. crown - ing of the year. Make your house fair as you are
2. seed is plant - ed there; Give up your strength the seed to
3. nest that must be filled. E - ven the hour when wings are
4. light the bowl shall brim. Shin - ing be - yond the frost - y
5. com - eth from the East. Set ev - 'ry peak and val - ley



1. a - ble. Trim the hearth and set the ta - ble. Peo - ple, look
2. nour - ish, That in course the flow'r may flour - ish. Peo - ple, look
3. fro - zen He for fledg - ing time has cho - sen. Peo - ple, look
4. weath - er, Bright as sun and moon to - geth - er. Peo - ple, look
5. hum - ming With the word, the Lord is com - ing. Peo - ple, look



1. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Guest, is on the way.
2. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Rose, is on the way.
3. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Bird, is on the way.
4. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Star, is on the way.
5. East, and sing to - day: Love, the Lord, is on the way.

## Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting.

### Elected Members

Bob Bechtel  
Darren DeArment  
Joseph Gerchak  
Heidi Gorski  
Joseph Kurtek  
Eric Lieberman  
Nannette Major  
Kevin McNamara  
Al Norkus  
Josette Peckman  
John Powers  
Nick Quinn  
Melissa Scheetz  
Martin Smith

### Appointed Members

John Consugar  
Lucilla Kochol  
Patty O'Neill

### Ex-Officio

Ed Brahler  
Father Dave Loeper  
Deacon Larry Lonergan  
Bobby Rienzo  
Deacon Luis R. Visot



## Christmas Wafers "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.**



## Season's Greetings

So many have been part of the lives of those who have served our Parish Family . During this Holiday Season, please remember the following:

Sister Judith Baldino, 2405 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34231  
Rev. Donald Henry, 4339 Kingston Loop, Sarasota, Fl. 34238  
Rev. Frederick Sattler, Holy Family Villa, 1325 Prospect Ave., Bethlehem, Pa. 18018  
Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, 2755 Holme Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152  
Sister Maryanne Zakreski, St. Joseph Convent, 120 Hilldale Road, Cheltenham, Pa. 19012  
Seminarian Matthew Kuna, 3001 Lindberg Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103



## 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.

## Neighboring Events

### **Spaghetti Dinner**

Spaghetti Dinner sponsored by St. Patrick Church on Sunday, December 6th from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. (or sell out) at 313 Mahantongo St., Pottsville.) Cost is \$8.00 per platter which includes pasta with homemade sauce, two meatballs, salad, bread. Extra meatballs or just meatballs with sauce costs \$6.00 for six.