

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 12, 2021 • Third Sunday of Advent



Advent

Mass Intentions

Saturday, December 11

5:00 p.m. George & Dolores Lynn
(David, Tony, Joan Marie
& Bob Lynn)

Sunday, December 12

8:15 a.m. Janet Doyne
& Jane Sunday
(Don & Joanne Doyne)

Sunday, December 12

10:30 a.m. Scott Rhoades
(Carol Rhoades)

Monday, December 13

6:30 p.m. Mary C. Neithamer
(Chuck Rinaldo)

Tuesday, December 14

9:00 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Mary Porter)

Wednesday, December 15

9:00 a.m. Wellington Daubert
(Janet Daubert)

Thursday, December 16

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

Friday, December 17

9:00 a.m. Catherine & James Smith
Rev. Martin Smith
(Linda & Martin Smith)

Saturday, December 18

5:00 p.m. John & Margaret Kasinecz
(John & Barbara Powers)

Sunday, December 19

8:15 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Ed & Gerry Schwartz)

Sunday, December 19

10:30 a.m. Sninski Family
(Zambo Family)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

Today, the Third Sunday of Advent, is traditionally called *Gaudete Sunday*. *Gaudete* is Latin for "rejoice!" Around the half-way point of Advent, we pause to rejoice. We rejoice that Jesus has already come as our Savior and is present in our lives right now, even though we continue to anticipate Christmas when we will celebrate His past coming, and we continue to anticipate His future coming. The theme of joy, or rejoicing, is shown by the lighting of the rose-colored candle of the Advent wreath and using rose vestments at Mass instead of violet.

Several years ago, you will remember the terrible school shooting at Sandy Hook Elementary School. The incident took place in December, just before the Third Sunday of Advent with its call to rejoice. How does one rejoice in the midst of such evil and suffering? Is it possible? Is it not even somewhat offensive to be told to rejoice when people are suffering unimaginably?

Christian joy is something much deeper than feelings of contentment or comfort. Our feelings depend on things going on outside us. For example, if someone is kind to me, I *feel* good. If I have an accident of some sort, I *feel* frustrated, or embarrassed, or perhaps disappointed. But joy is something much deeper than feelings. Christian joy is rooted in the reality that Jesus has stepped into our world and into our individual lives, that He brings us God's love, that He has conquered sin and death, and that, even though we still struggle with evil and suffering today, Jesus' victory will become absolute in the end, setting all things right. Yes, it is possible to rejoice, even in the midst of the most terrible evils. We have a Savior.

*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

Religious Women and Men. We give thanks to God for the families of religious women and men in our parishes. They helped to nourish their vocations to religious life. May God continue to support and encourage our religious as they minister in our parish communities.

Next Week's Readings

Fourth Sunday of Advent (December 18/19)

Reading I: Micah 5:1-4a

Reading II: Hebrews 10:5-10

Gospel: Luke 1:30-45

Upcoming Events

December

12	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Preschool.....	L.H.
12	1:00 p.m.	Joyful Mysteries—Advent Reflection.....	Church
13	7:00 p.m.	Eucharistic Holy Hour.....	Church
13	7:00 p.m.	Parish Council Meeting	L.H.
19	10:30 a.m.	Little Children's Sunday Preschool.....	L.H.
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
31	5:15 p.m.	Solemnity of Mary - Mass	Church

January

1	10:00 a.m.	Solemnity of Mary - Mass	Church
2	8:15 a.m.	Epiphany of the Lord - Mass	Church
2	10:30 a.m.	Epiphany of the Lord - 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



Weekly Collection

December 4/5\$5,814.33

Parish Dues\$1,137.00

Thank you for your sacrificial giving by dropping envelopes at the rectory, by mail and online giving.

Candles

BVM

1&2. IMO Lorrie Cunningham
by Christine Tray

St. Joseph

1. IMO Janet Doyne
by Don & Joanne Doyne
2. IMO Jane Sunday
by Don & Joanne Doyne

Sanctuary

IMO Lorrie Cunningham
by Family

Guardian Angels

1&2. IMO Ramon Grapsy
by Joan Grapsy
3. IMO George Hahner Sr.
by Family
4. St. John's Parish Family

Retirement Fund for Religious

Elderly Catholic sisters, brothers, and religious order priests have offered their lives in service to others — educating the young, comforting the sick, and ministering to the less fortunate. Today, many are frail and need assistance. Your gift to the Retirement Fund for Religious helps furnish medications, nursing care, and more. Please give generously to today's collection.



Donations to Local Faith Based Ministries

We are collecting items for the following local Faith Based Ministries during this Advent Season: Jewel, Servants to All, Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence (formerly SWIC).

Jewel—requested scarves, hats, gloves, socks, devotionals, journals, lotion.

Servants to All — requested pop top cans of food (example: tuna packets, sausages, spaghetti, ravioli, etc), bottled water, snack bags of chips, candy, cookies, fully cooked soups with pop top lids (no condensed soups), hats, scarves, and gloves.

Schuylkill Hope Center for Victims of Domestic Violence — requested bed pillows, twin sheets, blankets, paper towels, silverware.

Containers will be available in the rear of church. **DO NOT WRAP ANY ITEMS.**

The collection of items will take place until December 19..

Thank you in advance for your generosity!

Liturgical Minister Schedule

December 18— 5 p.m. Mass

Reader: Heidi Gorski

Euch.Min.: Gerry Schwartz

Servers: Stanley & Alek Gorski

December 19— 8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Michelle Ambrose

Euch.Min.: George Forney

Server: Sophia Palmieri

December 19—10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Vince Balulis

Euch.Min.: Mary Modesto

Server: Vincent Prestileo

Banns of Marriage

III—Alexandra Disabella
& Matthew Thomas

Parish Council

Please approach any Parish Council Member listed below and ask that a question, concern, etc. be brought up at the next meeting on **Monday, December 13th.**

Elected Members

Bob Bechtel
John Consugar
Darren DeArment
Joseph Gerchak
Heidi Gorski
Joseph Kurtek
Eric Lieberman
Nannette Major
Kevin McNamara
Al Norkus
Patty O'Neill
John Powers
Nick Quinn
Melissa Scheetz
Martin Smith

Appointed Members

John Consugar
Lucilla Kochol
Patty O'Neill

Ex-Officio

Father Kevin Bobbin
Deacon Larry Lonergan
Deacon Luis R. Visot
Ed Braham

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.



Church Decorating

Your help is needed!!

All are welcome to help decorate our church for Christmas. Please call the rectory if you can help or just show up on ...

Sunday, December 19th after 10:30 a.m. Mass.



The Advent Penance Service Is scheduled for **Monday, December 20**, at St. Patrick Church. A brief prayer service will be offered at 7 pm. Six priests will be available to hear confessions. The Parishes of St. John the Baptist, St. Clare of Assisi, Holy Cross, and St. Patrick are invited to celebrate together at St. Patrick Church the Sacrament of Reconciliation. The priests will be available until the last confession is heard.

First Reconciliation

We celebrate with the families of our third-grade children who celebrated their First Reconciliation on Saturday, December 4th. Congratulations! May God bless you and keep you close.

Pictured left to right are:
Joshua Bowman
Rosa Ciarvella
Collen Liddle



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:

Rev. David J. Loeper, 94 Walnut Road, Hamburg, Pa. 19526

Rev. Donald Henry, 4339 Kingston Loop, Sarasota, Fl. 34238

Sister Judith Baldino, 2405 Gulf Gate Drive, Sarasota, Fl. 34231

Sister Barbara Jean Wojnicki, 2755 Holme Ave., Philadelphia, Pa. 19152

Sister Maryanne Zakreski, St. Joseph Convent, 120 Hildale Road, Cheltenham, Pa. 19012

Seminarian—Matthew Kuna, 3001 Lindberg Avenue, Allentown, PA 18103

Seminarian—Bobby Rienzo, 6329 Sauterne Drive, Macungie, Pa. 18062

Christmas Wafers "Oplatki"

For centuries on Christmas Eve, families in Poland, Lithuania, Czech Republic and Slovakia 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.





Christmas Bazaar Wrap-up

Even amid the COVID pandemic we were still able to have our annual Christmas Bazaar, although things were a little different this year. The Bazaar was held in the Russell Building instead of Longinus Hall and all food items were take out only. However, the Bazaar was filled with many beautiful baskets, crafts and baked goods. There was something for everyone.

A special thank you to Ann Marie DeFrank and our Food Committee for doing a fantastic job with the food preparation and a special thanks to the Pugh Family for making their special "Pugh Family Bean Soup". It was surely a welcomed treat!

And let us not forget all those who donated items including baskets, gift cards, monetary donations, crafts, our Specials and, of course, all those who patronized the Bazaar. We thank you for your support. Again, thank you to all those who gave of their time and talent to make this Bazaar a success.

Thank you to everyone who helped in any way with this year's Christmas Bazaar. The wonderful support and hard work from all of our parish family was overwhelming. We all had a great time and we look forward to working with everyone again next year. Our profits totaled **\$11,142.80**

The Christmas Bazaar Committee



Going on NOW!! —Buy a Cookie Tray and Combat World Hunger.

After all Masses today, buy a \$15 cookie tray and feed 270 starving children in Haiti. Our church is selling cookie trays to support the Cookie Sale to Combat World Hunger. These cookie trays make wonderful hostess gifts for friends and colleagues. The cookie trays have 24 cookies; 8 chocolate chip, 8 peanut butter & 8 snickerdoodle, chocolates and are beautifully gift wrapped. Last year's donation efforts provided food for 1.5 million children as part of Cross Catholic Outreach's school feeding program in Haiti. Because the cookies are great tasting and the proceeds do so much good, over 57 tons of trays of cookies have been sold so far. Please buy a tray or two.

2022 Church Calendars.

Church calendars for the New Year are available at the church exits. 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.

Thank you to this year's Christmas Bazaar Bakers and Volunteers!

Christian Alvarez
Chris Black
Katie Blackwell
Ann Burns
Nora Chiplonia
Ally Darhun
Michelle Darhun
Janet Daubert
Ann Marie DeFrank
Joan Deiter
Karla Garland
Joyce Gerace
Mary Jane Hahner
Mary Beth Harvey
Debbie Herb
Brody Herndon
Maeve Ketner
Pat Klassen
Lucilla Kochol
Jan Kurtek
Maureen Kurtek
Pat Kutch
Carol Lasco
Charlene Leshar
Frances Lorenz
Hilda Maley
Patty Markovich
Maria McMurtrie
Aggie Messner
Patty Miller
Sharon Miller
Barbara Munster
Patty O'Neill
Nick Quinn
Carole Quirin
Reene Reddington
Marie Ryan
Eleanor Schaeffer
Missy Scheetz
Pat Scheetz
Sue Scheetz
Barbara Schoenauer
Gerry Schwartz
Emma Seiger
Tina Seiger
Natalie Setlock
Roseanne Sitkus
Linda Smith
Dave Steffan
Josh Steffan
Janet Thomas
Luis R. Visot
Joanne Wood

We apologize if we
misspelled or omitted your
name!



December 12, 2021

Third Sunday of Advent

Zep 3:14-18a | Phil 4:4-7 | Lk 3:10-18

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Although spontaneous outbursts of joy are not part of our liturgy, today's readings alert us that we have much reason to rejoice. Even in times of anxiety, we can rely on the words of St. Paul, who writes that we can rest assured that "the peace of God that surpasses all understanding will guard [our] hearts and minds in Christ Jesus." As we prepare for his coming during this Advent season, we don't need to leap out of our pews and make a show of our praise (but go for it, if that's your style!). However, in our hearts and in our prayer, we can follow the psalmist's lead and "cry out with joy and gladness: for among you is the great and Holy One of Israel." We can praise God in many ways, through fervent prayer, simple acts of kindness and, as John the Baptist did so well, sharing the Good News.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

"What should we do?" The crowds asked John the Baptist a deceptively simple question many of us wrestle with today. How do we prepare for Christ's coming? How should we spend the next hour, the day, the next year, the next five? John the Baptist answers without reservation: Share what you have. Don't be greedy. Do not falsely accuse others. In other words, get it together! The Lord is coming. Advent is a wonderful time to do just that, and St. Paul reminds us that we don't have to know all the answers. "The Lord is near," he writes, "Have no anxiety at all, but in everything, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, make your requests known to God." Last week, the readings encouraged us to discern what is truly valuable in our lives as Christians. Today's readings encourage us to ask the Lord: "What should we do?" Just as John the Baptist showed the people how to prepare for Christ's coming, the Lord shows us how to live out and share our faith through the Scriptures and in the silence of prayer.

ACTIONS Remember the last time you felt unadulterated joy? For me it was when my son smacked a game-winning goal at a hockey game. As we move through Advent, we can reawaken a sense of childlike joy as we prepare to celebrate Christ among us. As you light the Advent candle, take time to share with one another something that gave you joy within the past week.

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

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

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@allentowndiocese.org

