

St. John the Baptist Roman Catholic Parish Family

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

December 26, 2021

The Holy Family



Mass Intentions

Sunday, December 26

8:15 a.m. Bill & Marie Flynn

Sunday, December 26

10:30 a.m. Noel Glunz
(Pat, Amy, Missy Scheetz)

Monday, December 27

6:30 p.m. Marie Fitzpatrick
(Rita Lotz)

Tuesday, December 28

9:00 a.m. Gerry Mehling
(Mary Beth Harvey)

Wednesday, December 29—NO MASS

Thursday, December 30—NO MASS

Friday, December 31

5:15 p.m. Catherine Rinaldo
(Chuck Rinaldo & Family)

Saturday, January 1

10:00 a.m. Joan Steficek
(John & Mary Kay Duffy)

Sunday, January 2

8:15 a.m. Peter Darhun
(John & Bernice Petock)

Sunday, January 2

10:30 a.m. Sharon Lonergan
(Kathleen Hohman)

Message from Father Bobbin

Dear Parishioners,

The day after Christmas... When I was growing up, I always felt a little disappointed when I got up on December 26. The excitement of Christmas Eve and Christmas morning was over. But, it was not a complete let-down. I always looked forward to a whole week of vacation from school, spending time at home surrounded by Christmas decorations (and brand new gifts waiting to be enjoyed) and more family gatherings.

The Church's Christmas season only *begins* on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day is the first day of the Octave of Christmas: eight days of celebration. The birth of Jesus into our world is much too big to celebrate in just one day. Sunday within the Octave (today) is the Feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. The Octave ends on New Year's Day, which we dedicate to Mary: the Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God. The following Sunday is the Epiphany: Jesus is manifested as Savior for the entire world (signified by the Magi – foreigners – looking for Jesus). The next Sunday we finally conclude the Christmas season with the Feast of the Baptism of the Lord, which is an appropriate transition into Jesus' adult life and ministry.

Catholics are called to be counter-cultural. That means we don't just go along with everyone else. While many of our friends, neighbors, and coworkers are moving on, I hope you continue to celebrate Christmas for these next two weeks. Do not abandon the celebrations, decorations, or Christmas music too soon. Do not be too quick to switch your greeting from "Merry Christmas" to "Happy New Year." Celebrating the Church's Christmas season as it's intended is a way to witness to the coming of the Savior into our world and that our lives should now be different.

*In Christ,
Fr. Bobbin*



Year of Real
PRESENCE
CENTERED IN THE HOLY EUCHARIST

Next Week's Readings

Epiphany of the Lord (January 2nd)

Reading I: Isaiah 60:3-8

Reading II: Ephesians 3:1-2a, 5-6

Gospel: Matthew 2:1-12

The Holy Family

Let us imitate the Holy Family in our Christian families, and our family will be a cell and a prefiguration of the heavenly family. Say a prayer dedicating your family to the Holy Family. Also pray for all families and for our country to uphold the sanctity of the marriage bond which is under attack.

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

Christmas Time — the true meaning . Jesus is the reason for the season. During this Christmas time commit yourself to sharing the true meaning of Christmas with your family. God shared His love fully by becoming human. We too can share His love by being Christ to one another. May God bless you and your family during this season of good will.

Upcoming Events

December

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
 3 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
 6 7:00 p.m. First Friday Eve Holy Hour Church
 9 9:15 a.m. CCD Parent Meeting L.H.
 9 10:30 a.m. Little Children's Sunday Pre-school..... L.H.
 9 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class L.H.
 10 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
 16 10:30 a.m. Little Children's Sunday Pre-school..... L.H.
 17 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
 20 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
 23 10:30 a.m. Little Children's Sunday Pre-school..... L.H.
 23 6:30 p.m. Confirmation Class L.H.
 24 7:00 p.m. Eucharistic Holy Hour..... Chapel
 25 7:00 p.m. Building Committee Mtg L.H.
 27 6:30 p.m. Scripture Study L.H.
 30 10:30 a.m. Little Children's Sunday Pre-school..... L.H.
 30 11:30 a.m. CCD Community Mtg. L.H.

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 12/13\$6,272.65
Religious Retirement.....\$1,082.00

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

Candles

BVM

1. In thanksgiving
by Joe & Dorothy Stangl
2. IMO Mary & Charles Kutch
by Pat & John Kutch

St. Joseph

1. IMO Harry & Loretta Boyer
by Pat & John Kutch
2. St. John's Parish Family

Sanctuary

IMO John Steffan Jr.
by David & Armilla Steffan

Guardian Angels

1. Deceased of Genovese Family
by Pat & John Kutch
2. Deceased of Drobek Family
by Pat & John Kutch
3. IMO Dot & Gunk Steidle
by Pat & John Kutch
4. In thanksgiving
by Joe & Dorothy Stangl

Liturgical Minister Schedule

December 31—5:15 p.m. Mass

Reader: Bill Gianfagna

Euch.Min.: Dan & Hermine Murphy

Servers: Sophia Palmieri

January 1—10:00 a.m. Mass

Reader: Lucilla Kochol

Euch.Min.: Debbie Herb

Servers: Vincent Prestileo

January 2—8:15 a.m. Mass

Reader: Bob Bechtel

Euch.Min.: Jeff Naffin

Servers: Riley Doyle

January 2 - 10:30 a.m. Mass

Reader: Ray Petrilla

Euch.Min.: Sharon Snyder

Servers: Michael & Spencer Prestileo



Eucharistic Adoration

A holy hour in the **chapel every Monday evening** (unless announced otherwise) from **7:00 to 8:00 p.m.** This will be a simple holy hour without any formal prayer or Benediction. It is not necessary to come for the entire hour. Just stop by as you desire.



If you or a family member, friend, or neighbor who is a member of St. John is confined to home, a nursing home or assisted living facility because of illness, age, or disability and would like to receive Holy Communion on a monthly basis, please call the rectory. We traditionally visit the sick and homebound on or around the first Friday of the month. Please help us meet the spiritual needs of our homebound parishioners.



Baptismal Preparation

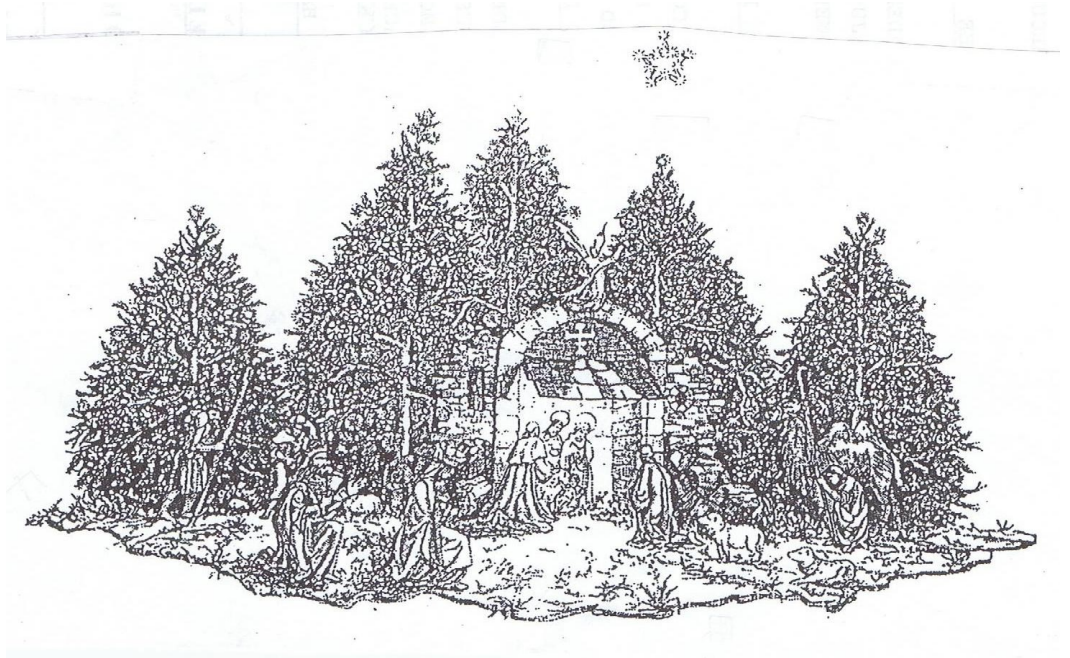
Before your youngest members are baptized, parents are asked to come for Baptismal Preparation. It is preferable that this be done **before** your baby is born. Please call Father Bobbin to arrange for this important preparation. Baptisms are celebrated the First Sunday of each month at 11:30 a.m. and the Second Sunday during 10:30 a.m. Mass.

Bulletin Boosters

IMO Carl Bartholomew
 IMO Harold Bartholomew
 IMO Robert Berger
 IMO Edward Christ
 Mildred A. Fredericks
 Fr. Don Henry
 IMO M/M Herbert Henry
 IMO Joanne Hepler
 IMO Clare & Linda Houser
 IMO M/M James Loeper
 MO Charles Lorenz
 IMO Dorothy Parsick
 IMO Jeanne Rehnert
 IMO Eugene & Rita Rehnert
 IMO Dorothy Rosenberger
 IMO Erika Stangl Seacock
 IMO Margaret Zelinsky
 Living & Deceased of St. John's
 CYO Program

*Thank you for supporting our
 bulletin this month!*

*The child grew and
 became strong,
 filled with wisdom;
 and the favor of
 God was upon him.
 Luke 2:40*



St. John's Crèche

This sketch by the late Dr. David Marshall depicts St. John's Crèche. It was made of hand-carved wood in the 1870's and shipped to Pottsville from Southern Germany. It is a beautiful and priceless treasure of our parish.



Cemetery Burial Plots & Regulations

Burial Plots

Because tragedy can strike at anytime ... when clear thinking and action can be sacrificed to the moment's need ... we want to remind our parishioners and friends that St. John the Baptist Cemetery offers its services whenever that need occurs.

Grave Lots \$ 600.00 each which includes Perpetual Care

Regulations / Guidelines

The following are guidelines established by St. John's Cemetery Committee ...

- * Shrubs are not permitted on cemetery grounds
- * Flowers or plants may be planted in the ground, but must remain within 12 inches of base of memorial. **NO** Perennials are permitted.
- * All artificial decorations must be removed within 14 days after specified holidays which are: Easter, Mother's Day, Memorial Day, Father's Day, July 4, Christmas, etc.
- * Placing of artificial flowers in the ground is forbidden
- * All rubbish is to be taken with you or placed in available receptacles located at top of cemetery
- * Please refrain from placing any tombstone in or on the grounds for one year after a death to allow the ground to settle back to its natural state.



December 26, 2021

Feast of the Holy Family

Sir 3:2-6, 12-14 | Col 3:12-21 or 3:12-17 | Lk 2:41-52

Written by
THE
FAITHFUL
DISCIPLE

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

Some of my fondest childhood memories are of my dad leading my three sisters and me in song as we made the hour-long drive to visit my grandparents every other weekend. Granted, our silly car songs don't qualify as "singing psalms, hymns, and spiritual songs," as Paul advised the Colossians, but I do think they reveal that my dad took to heart Paul's advice about family and faith. Paul writes that in putting on holiness, kindness, gentleness, and forgiving one another, we "put on love, that is, the bond of perfection." Whatever we do, in word or deed, we ought to do in the name of the Lord Jesus. Fathers, mothers, and children are to love one another, seeking and choosing the good for one another, and helping each other along life's journey – on long car trips as well as in a lifetime of situations. On this feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, and Joseph, we honor their perfect holiness and love, and pray that God may continue to perfect us in holiness and love within our own families, that we may bear good fruit for the Kingdom.

GO EVANGELIZE

PRAYER, INVITATION, WITNESS, ACCOMPANIMENT

Three Days? Mary and Joseph couldn't find Jesus for three days! Any parent who has had a child missing for a few seconds understands the anxiety Mary and Joseph experienced in three long days of searching for Jesus. In the end, though, all is well – they find him, and the peace of Christ casts out their fears. It is a remarkable scene: Jesus' parents are *astonished* to see him teaching in the temple, and Jesus is curious as to why they were looking for him – did they not know where he would be? This event marks a sort of milestone in their lives together, as Jesus has hinted at his future public ministry, and his parents have experienced that first bit of soul-piercing that Mary will later fully undergo. For each of them, love is what directed their actions. Joseph and Mary put aside everything to search for their son; Jesus put aside everything to serve his Father; and they joined together in humble obedience to God's will for them. The Holy Family models a way of living for us to imitate, and to witness to others in that imitation.

SERVE/STUDY Perhaps you have some down time in this coming week between Christmas and New Year's. As a family, choose an activity that allows you to think outside yourselves and serve others. Or make a plan to read the Scripture for each day of the upcoming week; everyone can choose a favorite verse to memorize each day. You may be surprised how often these verses enter your mind throughout the week.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist



St. John the Apostle, the son of Zebedee and Salome, was one of the Twelve Apostles of Jesus. John was called to be an Apostle by our Lord in the first year of His public ministry. He is considered the same person as John the Evangelist, John of Patmos and the Beloved Disciple. John's older brother was St. James the Great, another one of Jesus' Twelve Apostles. Jesus referred to the brothers as "Boanerges," meaning "sons of thunder." John is believed to be the longest living apostle and the only not to die a martyr's death.

John, along with Peter and James, were the only witnesses of the raising of Daughter of Jairus, and the closest witnesses to the Agony in Gethsemane. John was the one who reported to Jesus they had "'forbidden' a non-disciple from casting out demons in Jesus' name." This prompted Jesus to state, "he who is not against us is on our side."

John and Peter were the only two apostles sent by Jesus to make preparations for the final Passover meal, the Last Supper. During the meal, St. John sat next to Jesus, leaning on him rather than lying along the couches. John was the only one of the Twelve Apostles who did not forsake the Savior in the hour of His Passion. He stood faithfully at the cross when the Savior made him the guardian of His Mother.

After the Assumption of Mary, John went to Ephesus, according to Church tradition. He later became banished by the Roman authorities to the Greek Island of Patmos; this is where he allegedly wrote the Book of Revelation. It is said John was banished in the late 1st century, during the reign of the Emperor Domitian, after being plunged into boiling oil in Rome and suffering no injuries. It is also said that all those who witnessed the miracle in the Colosseum were converted to Christianity. Emperor Domitian was known for his persecution of Christians.

John is known as the author of the Gospel of John and four other books in the New Testament - the three Epistles of John and the Book of Revelation. The authorship of the Gospel is credited to the "disciple whom Jesus loved," and John 21:24 claims the Gospel of John is based on the "Beloved Disciple's" testimony. However, the true authorship has been debated on since 200. In his Ecclesiastical History, Eusebius states the First Epistle of John and the Gospel of John are agreed upon as John's. Eusebius continues to state the second and third epistles of John are not John the Apostle's.

In the Gospel of John, the phrase "the disciple whom Jesus loved," or "the Beloved Disciple" is used five times, but is not used in any other New Testament accounts of Jesus.

St. John is called the Apostle of Charity, a virtue he had learned from his Divine Master, and which he constantly inculcated by word and example. The "beloved disciple" died in Ephesus after AD 98, where a stately church was erected over his tomb. It was afterwards converted into a Mohammedan mosque.

St. John is the patron saint of love, loyalty, friendships, and authors. He is often depicted in art as the author of the Gospel with an eagle, symbolizing "the height he rose to in his gospel." In other icons, he is shown looking up into heaven and dictating his Gospel to his disciple.

St. John, Apostle and Evangelist's feast day is celebrated on December 27.

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
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