

**APRIL 17, 2016 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**

**PARISH STAFF**

**Pastor: Rev. Simone Volavola, M.S.C.**

**Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.**

**Deacon: Ernest D'Angelo**

**Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca**

**Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok**

**PARISH SPIRITUALITY**

**Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm**

**Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am**

**Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / Friday 9:00am**

**Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm**

**CONFESSION**

**Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or anytime by appointment.**

**REGISTER:** Please register when you move into the parish. This is an opportunity to become acquainted with our faith community and to experience the joy of being part of the Church. Only registered parishioners, in good standing, can receive a Certificate of Eligibility to act as a Godparent or sponsor.



**BAPTISMS:** The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to invite family members to the 10:30 Mass as the Sacrament of Baptism takes place immediately following the Mass. Parents and Godparents meet for an enrichment class prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. A Godparent must be a committed, practicing Catholic, and if from another parish, must have a certificate of eligibility from his/her pastor. This certificate should be brought to the enrichment class. A Christian of other denominations may serve as a Godparent along with a practicing Catholic.



**MARRIAGE:** Couples planning marriage are expected to attend Pre-Cana Conferences and to meet with the parish priest several times leading up to the marriage. The period of preparation time required is six months unless approved otherwise by our Pastor.



**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please call the rectory at any time for the Sacrament of the Sick. Also the Holy Eucharist will be brought to the sick and shut-ins upon request to the Parish Office. We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the ***Feast of St. John the Baptist.***

**Masses for the Week of April 18 – April 24, 2016**

**Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel, Mon – Fri at 8:15am**

**Monday, April 18**

8:35am (chapel) Gloria Hall (Mile & Colette Kirk)

**Tuesday, April 19**

8:35am (chapel) Intentions of Janet Dillard (Anita Colahan)

**Wednesday, April 20**

8:35am (chapel) Linda Ann Schottman (Mulligan Family)

**Thursday, April 21**

8:35am (chapel) Hank Trancredi (Arlene)

**Friday, April 22**

9:00am (church) Gloria Hall (Peg & Bob Trouts)

**Saturday, April 23**

5:00pm (church) Hank Trancredi (Arlene)

**Sunday, April 24**

8:00am (church) Parishioner' Intentions

10:30am (church) Lucy Sciacca (Her Girls)

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**Meetings for the week of April 18-24, 2016**

**Mon. April 18:** RA Choir Recording, 11am-3pm - chapel

**Tues. April 19:** Choir, 7pm - church

**Wed. April 20:** Christ Life, 6-9pm – Narthex

**Thurs. April 21:** Garden Club, 7pm – Marian Room

**Sat. April 23:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

Night At The Races, 6pm – Parish Hall

**Sun. April 24:** Teen RCIA, 11:45am – Marian Room

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**Mass Collections**

**Sunday, April 10, 2016**

**\$**



***Thank you for your generosity!***



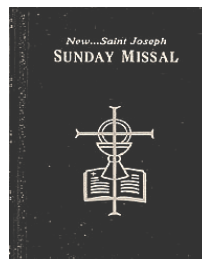
**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of**

**April 18<sup>th</sup> is Team # 2:**

*Joyce Melichore, Peg Trouts,*

*Jean Wurster, Terri DeVenuto*

***Your parish Thanks You!***



**This READINGS for our Masses  
this weekend may be found in:  
Section 909 - C**

## Gospel Reflections

### *A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Simi*



*“My Father, who has given them to me, is  
greater than all,  
and no one can take them out of the Father’s  
hand.”  
(John 10:29)*

On this, the Fourth Sunday of Easter, we are glad to welcome the Bishop Emeritus of Erie, The Most Reverend Donald W Trautman to our parish to confer the sacrament of Confirmation to this year’s confirmandi.

Those who are being confirmed this year, like us who have been confirmed, are gifts of the Father to His Son. As sheep who listen to the Shepherd’s voice and follow Him, we are part of a whole host of disciples whom Jesus refers to in this Sunday’s gospel, “My Father, who has given them to me, is greater than all, and no one can take them out of the Father’s hand.

The Father gave us to Jesus. We are the Father’s gifts to Jesus. God the Father, who loves His own begotten Son infinitely, expresses this love by creating us and giving us as gifts to His Son. This is where our worth comes from and it cannot come from anywhere more precious, honorable and permanent.

In this gift giving between the Father and the Son, we find that their giving is ongoing. The gifts that they exchange, (that is, us,) are not only increasing in number, but are also being forever renewed. Remaining the same persons, we are being forever renewed.

This is what sustains our hope in the world today: the Father because of His infinite love for His Son will not let anyone take us away from His hand. His love for His Son is permanent, eternal. He is not going to lose those gifts that come to existence from that eternal love.

The Father’s hand, His almighty and powerful right hand, holds us in existence and is a hand that stretches lovingly towards His Son. We who are the gifts in His hands are not being handed over to His Son without our consent. We instinctively know from whom we have come and for whom we are created.

We intuitively know that it is the whole purpose of our existence to be the sheep that listens

to the Shepherd’s voice and follow Him. We consent and willingly become that gift.

Yet as His sheep, we also are quite aware of our tendency to listen to other voices and get lost. Since Adam and Eve, we know how we have listened to the voice of the tempter who has led us astray in our way of thinking, telling us that we do not need the hand of God to mold us into the kind of precious gifts that He wants us to be for His Son.

Yet since Adam and Eve, we have also witnessed the hand of the Father at work in guiding us back to the Son, teaching us through the centuries how to recognize His voice again, His words, His ways. We witnessed how He will not allow the tempter to keep us away from Him.

Then at the appointed time, the Father sent His Son to us, His lost sheep. In His Son, we intuitively recognize the Voice. This Voice, the Son, resounds in the depths of our minds and our hearts and we know that we who were lost have been found.

We were dead sheep and the Shepherd followed us into our death and raised us back to life in Him. Jesus is the Father’s hand that will not let go of us. This is the faith that we celebrate at all times but most especially during Easter.

So when we look around and see how lost we may be, how dead we may be, how troubled and distressed we may be, we still are able to celebrate because we know we are being held by the Father’s hand who continues to gather His children who are scattered throughout the world, scattered in space, in time, in life and in death.

It is the powerful hand of the Father that confirms our children (and us) as Bishop Trautman lays his hands on them. We are being confirmed as renewed gifts to the Risen Lord.

### *Father Simi*



### **FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, Bedminster, PA**

*Join us in Praying for  
Vocations & World Peace*

### **Weekly Prayers**

**Mondays at 7pm in Our Lady’s Chapel:**

*Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet*

**Wednesdays at 9:30am in Our Lady’s Chapel:**

*Adoration, Liturgy of the Hour, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet*

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 12pm-1pm in Our Lady’s Chapel:**

*Adoration, Prayers for vocations to the Priesthood*

For information or directions, call Joan Black at 215-795-2947

## CONGRATULATIONS 2016 CONFIRMANDI

"Therefore let us leave the elementary teachings of Christ and go on to maturity, not laying again the foundation of repentance from acts that lead to death, and of faith in God, instruction about baptisms, the laying on of hands, the resurrection of the dead, and eternal judgment"

Heb.6:1-2



"Then they laid hands on them and they received the Holy Spirit." Acts 8:17



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

Tuesday, April 19<sup>th</sup> - Grade 8 Graduation Pictures

Thursday, April 21<sup>st</sup> - KLS Tour 8:30am

Friday, April 22<sup>nd</sup> – Creation Day

Saturday, April 30<sup>th</sup> – First Holy Communion

Retreat, 9am-12pm

**Register Today**

Thursday, May 12<sup>th</sup>

Are you joining us for breakfast?

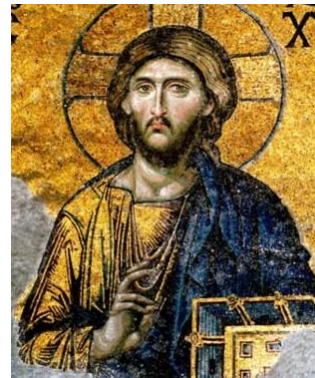
Visit our website to register.

Call Geoff Meyers to register for one of our KLS tours and our SHADOW Days.

School Headmaster: Mr. Michael Patterson

Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer

Ph: 610-847-5523 [www.sjbottsville.org](http://www.sjbottsville.org)



At the heart of Catholic Faith is the living person of Jesus Christ who desires to encounter every human being personally.

Catholics believe that God created the world in love, that human beings fell away from that love through sin, but that God has restored us to his love in his Son, Jesus Christ. Catholics profess that as a response to our sin, "God so loved the world that he sent his only Son" who became man, lived a fully human life, suffered and died on the Cross for our sins and rose from the dead. To fulfill his promise to "be with you always, even until the end of the age," Jesus established his Church as "the space offered by Christ in history where we can encounter him." The whole of Catholic belief and life flows out of this reality.

Ena Altier	Catherine Kentopp
Paige Becker	Evelyn Kern
Nolan Bench	Julia Kennedy
Aidan Blaikie	Zachary Kolvites
Emmalee Bryan	Richard Loughran
Matthew Bucich	Maggie McArdle
Drew Camp	Lilia Meadows
Kaelin Costello	Maria Middleton
Jacoby Finalyson	Ava Morelli
Annie Funk	Maya Reshetar
Christopher Hackley	Jessica Steinmetz
Delaney Hilferty	Isabella Theesfeld
Caleb Johnson	Benjamin Tubiello
Brooke Kampe	



### **Excerpts from....**

Pope Francis' postsynodal apostolic exhortation on the family, "**Amoris Laetitia**" ("**The Joy of Love**") released April 8, 2016. The exhortation is the concluding document of the 2014 and 2015 synods of bishops on the family.

### **Pope urges us to show mercy to all families, the strong and the struggling.**

The same mercy and patience that are essential for building a strong family must be shown to those whose families are in trouble or have broken up, Pope Francis said in his highly anticipated postsynodal apostolic exhortation.

The document, "'Amoris Laetitia' (The Joy of Love), on Love in the Family," released April 8, contains no new rules or norms. However, it encourages careful review of everything related to family ministry and, particularly, much greater attention to the language and attitude used when explaining church teaching and ministering to those who do not fully live that teaching.

"No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," Pope Francis wrote. People grow in holiness, and the church must be there to give them a helping hand rather than turn them away because they have not attained some degree of perfection.

The exhortation was Pope Francis' reflection on the discussion, debate and suggestions raised during the 2014 and 2015 meetings of the Synod of Bishops on the family. Like synod members did, the pope insisted that God's plan for the family is that it be built on the lifelong union of one man and one woman open to having children.

Pope Francis' document touches on all the issues raised at the synods and gives practical advice on raising children, urges a revision of sex-education programs and decries the many ways the "disposable culture" has infiltrated family life and sexuality to the point that many people feel free to use and then walk away from others.

"Everyone uses and throws away, takes and breaks, exploits and squeezes to the last drop. Then, goodbye," he wrote.

### **Spirituality is essential in family life, Pope says,**

Simple gestures such as a kind look or a morning kiss and family prayer can strengthen couples in living out their vocation to marriage, Pope Francis said in his apostolic exhortation. 'Amoris Laetitia' (The Joy of Love), delves deeper into the church's teachings on true love and the family.

It also highlights the importance of sexuality and passion as a manifestation of true love as a gift. Sex, Pope Francis said, should not be seen as just "a source of fruitfulness and procreation" or "a burden to be tolerated."

The pope reflected on the essence of St. Paul's definition of true love from the First Letter to the Corinthians, Chapter 13, and its relevance "to the concrete situation of every family." Simple gestures — a kind look, a morning kiss or an evening blessing — can counter a negative attitude that focuses solely on the other's shortcomings and allows couples to "to be patient and to cooperate with others despite our differences." We need these moments of cherishing God's gifts and renewing our zest for life. As long as we can celebrate, we are able to rekindle our love, to free it from monotony and to color our daily routine with hope," the pope wrote. For married couples, he continued, daily gestures and "moments of joy, relaxation, celebration and even sexuality can be experienced as a sharing in the full life of the resurrection." St. John Paul II's catechesis on the theology of the body, the pope explained, places sexuality in its proper context. Sexuality in married life is not only "'a source of fruitfulness and pro-creation,' but also possesses 'the capacity of expressing love: that love precisely in which the human person becomes a gift.'" Moreover, the pope stressed the importance of the spirituality of the family which "is made up of small but real gestures" that manifest God's presence in "real and concrete families, with all their daily troubles and struggles, joys and hopes." Family life doesn't detract from spiritual life, he explained, but is rather a path that leads married couples and families "to lead them to the heights of mystical union."

"The fraternal and communal demands of family life are an incentive to growth in openness of heart and thus to an ever fuller encounter with the Lord," he wrote.

Family prayer, the pope wrote, is a way of strengthening "the hidden presence of the risen Lord" by taking a few minutes of each day to pray or give thanks and "to come together before the living God."

"With a few simple words, this moment of prayer can do immense good for our families," he wrote. Pope Francis also emphasized the importance of the Eucharist, the sacrament of the new covenant, that offers "spouses the strength and incentive needed to live the marriage covenant each day as a 'domestic church.'" "No family drops down from heaven perfectly formed; families need constantly to grow and mature in the ability to love," he wrote. "May we never lose heart because of our limitations, or ever stop seeking that fullness of love and communion which God holds out before us."

**APRIL 17, 2016 – FOURTH SUNDAY OF EASTER**



**Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, in the hospital, under hospice or residential care.**

*Susan Ackerman, Rose Marie Alex, Lillian Appleman, Mary Balbirer, John & Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Libby Chapman, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Janet Dillard, Arlene Eichlin, Josephine Fasano, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Nancy Fratrik, Mary Gallo, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Susan Gross, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Charles Houston, Anna Jesiolowski, Martha Juchnowicz, Donald B. Knight, Denise Kinker, Georgine Kocher, Anthony Kondracki, Deanna Kovner, Myron Kressman, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Sally Lindenmuth, Charles Lutcavage, Julia Maher, Loretta Malloy, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget Julia McHugh, Michelle McNevin, Anne McNichol, Emma Michael, Joseph Moore, Jennie Moreno, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, Frances Nowicki, Nancy,*

*James O'Hanlon, Gary Palmer, Nicholas Powell, Gladys Proca, Marianne Przyuski, Don Raman, Mike Ramos, Rachael Rice, Gregory Rickert, Valerie Roberts, Sandy Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Kelsey Russell, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Andrew Schad, Lana Schell, Andrew & Florence Schroker, **Petie Schultz**, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Gail Silveira, Baby Ella Stack, Carolyn Stahley, Shane Stroup, Michael Suder, Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas & Frank Toner, Barbara Vogan, Diane Wesoski, **Maryjane Whealton**, Tamara Widmer, Betty Wismer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder.*

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*Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle*



*Crossland, Casey de Lauretis, Steehly de Lauretis, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given, Matthew Gumprecht, Bob Hankinson, Victor Hormilla, Stephen Lindmeier, Jason*

*Litschauer, Cory Litzenberger, Dan O'Connor, Jonathan Pucci, Dusty Rhodes, Craig Russell, Don Valdez, Justin Walsh.*

***Thank you for serving & protecting our freedoms.***

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**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**April 23<sup>rd</sup> & 24<sup>th</sup> , 2016 - Fifth Sunday of Easter**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday, 5:00PM April 23, 2016</b>	<b>Joan Black Dorothy Cegielski Joe Cegielski Joanne DaCunha</b>	<b>Marie Louzon</b>	<b>Gavin Reshetar Maya Reshetar Emily Vinal</b>	<b>Ordinary Times</b>
<b>Sunday, 8:00am April 24, 2016</b>	<b>Marianne McEvoy Jim McHugh Patricia Ott Bea Romaszewski</b>	<b>Jonathan Ott</b>	<b>Danny Froman Samantha Froman Violet Williams</b>	<b>Tom &amp; Denny Sue Rogers</b>
<b>Sunday, 10:30am April 24, 2016</b>	<b>Wendy DeGroot Mark Fetter Jackie Litzenberger Donna Sciacca</b>	<b>Jane Ferry</b>	<b>Kaelin Costello Nicole DeCicco Joseph Gonzales</b>	<b>Choir</b>