

## DECEMBER 13, 2015 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### 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 Dec. 14 - 20, 2015

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

#### Monday, Dec. 14

8:35am (chapel) Brenda Trouts (Mom & Pop)

#### Tuesday, Dec. 15

8:35am (chapel) Lucy Dolan (Tony & Janet Souza)

#### Wednesday, Dec. 16

8:35am (chapel) Maria Meier (Ron Meier)

#### Thursday, Dec. 17

8:35am (chapel) John Sabath (Marie Simons)

#### Friday, Dec. 18

9:00am (church) Joe Scullin (SJB Friends)

#### Saturday, Dec. 19

5:00pm (church) Ed & Harold Philips (Friend)

#### Sunday, Dec. 20

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Genie Cullen (Dolly Kovacs)

---

### Meetings for the week of December 14 - 20, 2015

**Mon. Dec. 14: PARISH PENANCE SERVICE, 6:30pm**

**Tues. Dec. 15: Choir rehearsal, 7pm - church**

**Wed. Dec. 16: Catechist XMAS Dinner, 6pm – Parish Hall**

**Thurs. Dec. 17: RA School Tableau, 7pm - church**

**Sat. Dec. 19: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room**

**Sun. Dec. 20: DECORATING OF THE CHURCH, 11:45AM**

---

### **Mass Collection**

Sunday, Dec. 6, 2015

\$6,947.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*



---

### **SJB Cleaning Team for the week of Dec. 14<sup>th</sup> is Team # 4:**

*Karen Parash, Joyce Vinceguerra, Jean*

*Keller, Chris Zdanowicz, Dot Cegielski,*

*Diane Watson*

*Your parish thanks you!*



---

**Confirmation Candidates – Volunteer and the time spent decorating counts toward 1 Service Project.**

**Sunday, Dec. 20<sup>th</sup> after the 10:30 Mass**



## Gospel Reflections

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



***"I am baptizing you with water,  
but one mightier than I is coming.  
I am not worthy to loosen the thongs of his sandals.  
He will baptize you with the Holy Spirit and fire."  
Luke 3:16***

*Dear brothers and sisters,*

This Sunday, the third Sunday of Advent is called Gaudete Sunday: Rejoice Sunday. Through these weeks of Advent, of longing, or expectation for the coming of our salvation in Jesus Christ our Lord, we already begin to rejoice. Our longing for Jesus' second coming is one of joyful expectation.

Why? The reason is because we will then fully experience the height of His mercy for each one of us. We joyfully long for His second coming because we know that His work of mercy which He began with His own mother from the moment of her conception, Jesus is going to complete in all of us too.

We saw from last Sunday's gospel how God has begun to reveal His mercy to us through the preparatory work of His servant, John the Baptist. John the Baptist is sent by God into to proclaim repentance and forgiveness. To a very sinful world that has been taken over by sinners.

Civil rulers Tiberius Caesar, Pontius Pilate, Herod, Philip, Lysanias, and religious rulers Annas and Caiaphas, introduced at the beginning of John the Baptist's ministry, will end up to be the same rulers who will put the awaited Messiah to death.

These rulers represent us all. They represent us as sinners, as children of Eve and Adam, all of whom have rejected God, offended God and sinned against Him. Yet it is precisely to us that the Father has sent His Son, not to condemn, but to save. That is why we rejoice.

In today's gospel, we see how John the Baptist is ministering to employees of those same rulers: tax collectors and soldiers. John's presence and ministry to them already points to the way God's mercy is going to be poured out: on everyone, even the hardest of criminals. There is hope for everyone. No one is excluded. This is why we should rejoice.

We know that even Satan was not excluded from God's visitation. The gospels tell us that it was to Satan first that God the Father sent His Son immediately after His public ministry was inaugurated at His baptism in the Jordan by John the Baptist. Jesus was going to deal first and foremost with our captor, the one who has successfully deceived us and imprisoned us. This is why we should rejoice.

This joy which permeates our sinful world is the same joy that will compel us to confidence; confidence in God's mercy. For us then, we confidently expose our every sin to Jesus. We do this confidently because we know He

has come not to condemn us but to forgive us and save us from this sad existence in our barren desert.

This is what Isaiah means when he spoke the words about John the Baptist, words which we heard last Sunday; A voice of one crying out in the desert: "Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths. Every valley shall be filled and every mountain and hill shall be made low. The winding roads shall be made straight, and the rough ways made smooth, and all flesh shall see the salvation of God."

These words speak of haste; the haste of joyful longing to be reunited with the One from who we have separated ourselves. This reunion takes place at Confession and at the Eucharist where all flesh sees the salvation of God in the flesh.

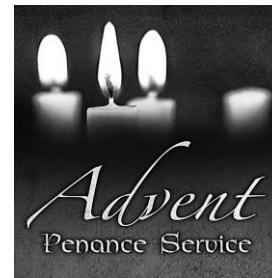
Rejoice my brothers and sisters! Rejoice!

*Fr. Simí.*

---

## Parish Penance Service

**Monday  
Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>  
6:30pm**



Musical accompaniment of

Karan Parash & Liz Torgerson

---

## Mary: The Yes That Changed the World

Mary has a unique and privileged place in salvation history and in the Church. Because she responded yes to becoming the Mother of God, she is our first model of discipleship and our model of grace and trust in God. "Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word." Luke 1:38

For centuries, Mary has been a powerful presence in our Church and has inspired generations of believers. Mary's yes to God exemplifies perfect faith and courage.

The *Magnificat*, her beautiful song of praise, speaks of justice, mercy, and peace. It also gives us clues as to how her life of perfect discipleship can inspire us today.

Getting to know Mary and reflecting on her life of faith help us to grow in our own lives. Through Mary we come to deepen our appreciation of the Mystery of the Incarnation: God becoming one of us in order to dwell among us and bring us his salvation.

As individuals and as a parish family, we too are invited to spend some time getting to know Mary. Who is this woman who, at an early age, was full of grace, faith, and trust in God? Who is this parent who taught her child and encouraged him throughout his life? Who is this faithful Jewish woman who watched her son die, yet believed in the promise that his death would bring new life to the world? Who was this person who said yes to God throughout her life?

**PREP**

On the **third Sunday of Advent**, the penitential purple of the season changes to rose and we celebrate **“Gaudete” or “Rejoice!” Sunday**. “Draw water joyfully from the font of salvation,” says Isaiah. “Rejoice in the Lord always,” says St. Paul. “Do penance for the judge is coming,” says John the Baptist. Did you know that John the Baptist is the patron saint of spiritual joy? After all, he leapt for joy in his mother’s womb at the presence of Jesus and Mary (Luke 1:44). And it says that he rejoices to hear the bridegrooms voice (John 3:29-30). Or to use John’s own example, he was like the best man at a wedding. It certainly is an honor to be chosen as “best man.” But the best man does not get the bride. According to Jewish custom, the best man’s role was to bring the bride to the bridegroom, and then make a tactful exit. And John found joy in this. “My joy is now full. He must increase and I must decrease.” John the Baptist was joyful because he was humble. He shows us the true nature of this virtue. Humility is not beating up on yourself, denying that you have any gifts, talents, or importance. John knew he had an important role which he played aggressively, with authority and confidence. The humble man does not sheepishly look down on himself. Actually, he does not look at himself at all. He looks away from himself to the Lord. Proud people are preoccupied with self, seeing all others as competitors. The proud have to perpetually exalt themselves over others in hope that this will provide a sense of worth and inner peace. Of course, it doesn’t. Pride always comes before the fall, as it did in the Garden of Eden. Humility brings freedom from this frantic bondage. Receiving one’s dignity and self-worth as a gift from God relieves us from this stressful burden. Freed, we can recognize the presence of God and feel a sense of satisfaction when others recognize that God is God and honor him as such. We are now free to recognize godliness in someone else and rejoice when others notice and honor this person too. **Repentance is all about humility and humility is all about freedom. And freedom leads to inner peace and joy, joy in the presence of the Bridegroom.**

### PREP December Calendar Reminders:



**Mon. Dec. 14<sup>th</sup>:** Parish Penance Service, Mon & Tues. PREP Students Obligated to attend. Parents are asked to remain in church during service. Students are to meet their teacher in the Narthex at 6pm, attendance will be taken. Students will sit with their class and are free to leave after attending Confession and doing their Penance.

**Wed. Dec. 16<sup>th</sup>:** Catechist XMAS Dinner 6-8pm (Parish Hall)

**Mon & Tues. Dec. 28<sup>th</sup> & 29<sup>th</sup>:** No PREP Class, XMAS break.

## The Regina Academy

at St. John the Baptist

4040 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942

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



*Our children graciously invite*

*you to join us for the  
Christmas Tableau, to  
be held in our beautiful church,  
on December 17th,  
at 7:00pm.*

*We look forward to your attendance at this  
special event.*

**Visit our website for the latest news & upcoming events**

School Headmaster: Mr. Michael Patterson

Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer

**FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER Bedminster, PA**  
**Join us in Praying for Vocations & World Peace**

### Weekly Prayers

#### Every Monday

**7pm in Our Lady’s Chapel:**

Adoration, Liturgy of the  
Hours, Rosary and Divine  
Mercy Chaplet

#### Every Wednesday

**9:30am in Our Lady’s  
Chapel:**

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

#### Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday

**12-1pm in Our Lady’s Chapel**

Adoration, Prayers for vocations to the Priesthood

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



*Youth Minister, Emily Litzenberger*



**Don’t be left out in the cold this winter,  
Register & receive our calendar upcoming  
events.**

**SaltLife YG**





## Jesus Is Waiting for You

*"Ask, and it will be given you; search, and you will find; knock, and the door will be opened for you." (Luke 11:9)*

You have decided to dedicate yourself completely to God, to make Jesus the center of your life, and to be fashioned into an instrument of God's grace. You can look at your life as a large cone that becomes narrower the deeper you go. There are many doors in that cone that give you chances to leave the journey. But you have been closing these doors one after the other, making yourself go deeper and deeper into your center. You know that Jesus is waiting for you at the end, just as you know that he is guiding you as you move in that direction. Every time you close another door—be it the door of immediate satisfaction, the door of distracting entertainment, the door of busyness, the door of guilt and worry, or the door of self-rejection—you commit yourself to go deeper into your heart and thus deeper into the heart of God. This is a movement toward full incarnation. It leads you to become what you already are—a child of God. It lets you embody more and more the truth of your being. It makes you claim the God within you. You are tempted to think that you are a nobody in the spiritual life and that your friends are far beyond you on the journey. But this is a mistake. You must trust the depth of God's presence in you and live from there. This is the way to keep moving toward full incarnation. —Henri J.M. Nouwen

*Jesus, lead me deeper into my heart so I can meet you there. Today I will....*

### A Christmas Blessing

*On this day illumined by the gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all: upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering. May he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Happy Christmas to all! —Pope Francis*

## Christmas Eve Musical Prelude to Mass



**ARRIVE EARLY for our  
Christmas Concerts**

**4:30pm featuring ORDINARY TIME**  
**8:30pm featuring the SJB CHOIR**

**The Retrouville Marriage Program** offers help for struggling marriages. *If you are struggling in your marriage, attending a Retrouville program could be the best gift you give your spouse and family this Christmas!* Tens of thousands of couples have successfully saved their marriages by attending a



Retrouville weekend and the six post sessions that follow it. Retrouville is not just a social gathering or series of seminars, but rather a way to rediscover and rekindle the loving relationship in your marriage.

The next program begins the weekend of February 12, 2016 at the Family Center in Malvern, PA.

For more information or to register, visit

[www.HelpOurMarriage.com](http://www.HelpOurMarriage.com) or call 1800-470-2230. All inquiries are strictly confidential.

### A Call for Cantors & Musicians!

**Growing our Music Ministries**

One who offers a song to God in worship prays twice!

~ St. Augustine



The purpose of the Music Ministry is to share the gospel of Jesus Christ through song, encourage believers in their walk with Christ, lead the congregation in worship and provide an avenue through which individuals may share their gift and be an integral part of the worship.

If interested, call the parish office and leave your contact information for our Musical Director Nio.

## DECEMBER 13, 2015 – THIRD SUNDAY IN ADVENT



**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, Patricia Baker,

Mary Balbirer, John & Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Libby Chapman, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Glenn DeKutowski, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Josephine Fasano, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., **John Finn**, Patricia Fite, Sarah Fleck, Nancy Fratrick, 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, Georgine Kocher, Anthony Kondracki, Deanna Kovner, Myron Kressman, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, 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, 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, Lana Schell, Andrew & Florence Schroker, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Gail Silveira, Joseph Simkanin, Baby Ella Stack, Carolyn Stahley, Shane Stroup, Michael Suder, Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas & Frank Toner, Barbara Vogan, Diane Wesoski, Tamara Widmer, Betty Wismer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder.



Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey de Lauretis, Steehly de Lauretis, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given, 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.***

### MINISTRY SCHEDULE 2015 Dec. 19th & 20th – Fourth Sunday in Advent Christmas Eve & Christmas Day

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday, 5:00pm Dec. 19</b>	Lynn Gammello Cathy Leidtke Patricia Ott Not Filled	Jonathan Ott	James Gammello Gianna Gammello Maria Middleton	Susan Middleton Karen Parash
<b>Sunday, 8:00am Dec. 20</b>	Mark Fetter Nancy Kaczinski Donna Nice Ron Watson	Jeanne Keller	Jacob Fetter Ganriel Fetter Natalie Nice	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
<b>Sunday, 10:30am Dec. 20</b>	Phil Donahue Dolly Kovacs Jackie Litzenberger Donna Sciacca	Christina Crews	Jack Pauly Anna Schmidt Caius Van Haute	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
<b>Christmas Eve 5pm</b>	Dot Cegielski Joe Cegielski Joan Black Marianne McEvoy	Linda Russo	Danny Froman Emily Froman Jack Pauly	Ordinary Time
<b>Christmas Eve 9pm</b>	Cathy Leidtke Donna Sciacca	Not Filled	Not Filled Not Filled Not Filled	Choir Sue Rogers
<b>Christmas Day 9am</b>	Gerri Belsito Dolly Kovacs Leona Russell Marion Wolf	Helene Bell	Not Filled Not Filled Not Filled	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak