

DECEMBER 27TH – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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. 28, 2015 – January 3, 2016

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

Monday, Dec. 28

8:35am (chapel) Joe Litzenberger (wife Jackie)

Tuesday, Dec. 29

8:35am (chapel) Regina Cullen (Mike & Cathy Moreni)

Wednesday, Dec. 30

8:35am (chapel) John Middleton (Middleton Family)

Thursday, Dec. 31 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the

Mother of God

5:00pm (church) Rose Vinceguerra (Joe & Joyce)

Friday, Jan. 1, 2016 – Solemnity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God

9:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

Saturday, Jan. 2

5:00pm (church) Matthew Clemens (Catherine Palumbo)

Sunday, Jan. 3

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Regina Cullen (Jim & Joan Black)

Meetings for the week of Dec. 28th – Jan. 3rd

Sat. Jan. 2: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

Sun. Jan. 3: Teen RCIA, 11:45am – Marian Room

Mass Collection

Sunday, Dec. 13, 2015

\$7,844.50

Sunday, Dec. 20, 2015

NOT AVAILABLE AT PRESS TIME

Thank you for your generosity!



SJB Cleaning Team for the week of Dec. 28th is Team # 1:

Laura Gumprecht, Anita Colahan, Susan Middleton, Kate Irvine, Sharon Forte, Lisa Saab
Your parish thanks you!



The parish office is closed this week and will reopen at 8:30AM on Jan. 3rd.

For those who may have difficulty hearing:

The READINGS for Dec. 26-27 may be found on page 874.

The READINGS for Dec. 31 & Jan. 1 may be found on page 877.

in the JourneySongs Missal in your pews.

Gospel Reflections

A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Simi



Dear brothers and sisters,

***“Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that
I must be in my Father’s house?”
Luke 2:49***

I hope that you have all had a grace-filled Christmas. Today’s feast of the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph reminds us that Christmas is about the birth of Jesus into a family, His own family comprising not just of Mary and Joseph but of all families of the world.

All families belong to Jesus because each human being is created by Him and given by Him to his or her family. Each human being is born to parents who are also created by Jesus, hence all families come from Jesus and are held in existence by Jesus.

In our forgetfulness of this primary truth, we also lose sight of who we are. Losing sight of who we are, we lose also in our existence as sons and daughters, as parents and as families the beauty and truth of whom we truly are.

Worse still, when our forgetfulness of Jesus as origin of our individual and familial existence slowly devolves into a rejection of Jesus, we too end up losing ourselves. Our families begin to weaken and even come apart.

This indeed has come true and has been a part of our broken human existence since the first two parents rejected their Creator, their origin, and fell for the lie that they do not really need to obey their Creator and His will for them, His laws, His teachings to them about what is good and not good for them.

The schism, the eternal separation that resulted from this rejection of the Creator by their creatures persists to this day in each and every one of our families. Spouses can still lose one another, parents can lose their children, children can lose their parents and siblings can lose each other.

This is the reason why Jesus, the origin of all spousal and familial life, became flesh in a family. He has become one of a family to restore all families back to Him first and His Father. By His incarnation and especially in today’s gospel, Jesus teaches us that we will only find each other again when we search diligently first for Him and His Father.

Mary and Joseph teach us this truth of our salvation in today’s gospel. We are not complete without Jesus. They searched anxiously for Jesus and so must we. Their search leads them to the temple. There they find Jesus: in His Father’s house.

It is in Jesus and His Father’s house that they find their family whole again. Without Jesus and His Father, our families will always be incomplete and broken. Anxiety will always rule in our families.

This is why we come to Mass each Sunday. We know that it is in the Father’s house that we will find Jesus teaching us and reconciling us to His Father in the sacrifice of His own body blood, soul and divinity, becoming at once for us the sacrifice and the temple of sacrifice.

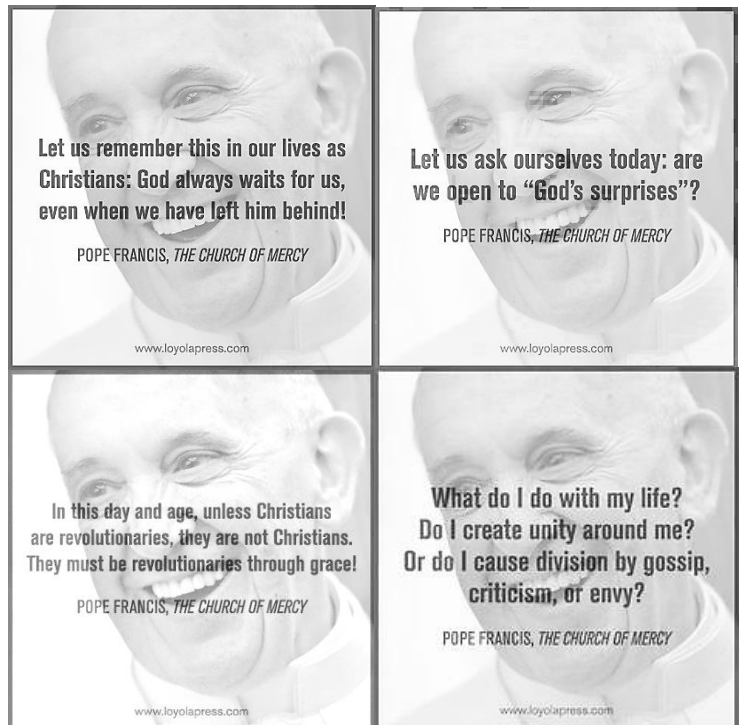
It was only in finding Jesus in the temple and acknowledging their need to obey the Father’s will for their Son that their family was able to return to Nazareth whole again. So too will our families be whole again if we remain committed to always diligently searching for Jesus and His will for each one of us in our individual families.

Spouses will only truly find each other’s truth and beauty in Jesus their Creator. Parents will only find the truth and beauty of their children in Jesus, their Creator. Children will only find the truth and beauty of their own lives and their parents’ lives in Jesus, their Creator.

Let us not give up our search for Jesus and His will for us in the family. To lose Him is to lose ourselves, and our families. We thank Him for coming to us and being born in us.

Merry Christmas everyone.

Father Simi



P Today we celebrate the feast of the Holy Family. This feast is part of the Christmas season. The Gospel of Luke has been answering the question "Who is Jesus?" through his stories of the births of John the Baptist and Jesus. Today's Gospel describes a time of anxiety in the life of Jesus' family.



Mary, Joseph, and Jesus are presented in this Gospel as a faithful Jewish family. They are participating in the annual pilgrimage to Jerusalem for the feast of Passover, an event shared each year with family and friends. We can imagine their panic and worry as they discovered that Jesus was not with the caravan returning to Nazareth. The Holy Family journeyed with family members and friends because traveling alone was dangerous. When Jesus is found, Luke describes him as seated in the Temple in the midst of the Jewish teachers. Although he is young, Jesus seems not to need teaching about his Jewish tradition. Jesus astounds them with his insight and understanding. Jesus is a child of Israel. His Father is God. When Mary and Joseph find Jesus in the Temple, they question Jesus and express their anxiety. Jesus replies in words that many have thought to be disrespectful. Jesus spoke like a typical adolescent, unsympathetic to his parents' concern. Yet his words teach an important lesson about reducing anxiety in our family life. In essence, Jesus says, "If you had remembered who I am, you would have known where to find me." In their panic, Mary and Joseph had forgotten what had been told to them before Jesus' birth, *that their son was the Son of God.*

Ultimately, this emphasizes Luke's point about the identity of Jesus. Jesus says that he was never lost; he was at home. Jesus is God's Son, and he is in his Father's house.

Let us pray... "Lord, in love you have called me to live for your praise and glory. May I always find joy in your presence and trust in your grace and in your wisdom and plan for my life." Amen.



PREP CLASSES RESUME
JAN. 4th & 5th
Join the children at 6:30 for Mass



The Regina Academy

at St. John the Baptist
4040 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942
Ph: 610-847-5523 www.sjbottsville.org

Christmas break:

Dec. 18th – Noon Dismissal

No School – Dec. 21 – Jan. 3

School Resumes Monday, Jan. 4, 2016

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 3rd 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.



JUBILEE YEAR OF MERCY



Mercy – as Christ has presented it in the parable of the prodigal son – has the interior form of the love that in the New Testament is called *agape*. This love is able to reach down to every prodigal son, to every human misery, and above all to every form of moral misery, sin. When this happens, the person who is the object of mercy does not feel humiliated, but rather found again and 'restored to value.

Celebrate this Extraordinary Jubilee Year of Mercy

by visiting www.archphila.org
for a list of resources and events.

MARCH FOR LIFE | 2016



It has been said — politically and culturally — that for one to be pro-woman one must be pro-choice. But nothing could be further from the truth. Sadly, there are so many confusing messages regarding women and the issue of abortion,

compounded by the false “war on women” rhetoric.

The truth is that life is the empowering choice for women. It’s best for women and families facing unplanned pregnancies, and it’s best for developing female babies in the womb. Abortion harms

women, and affects our society as a whole, in so many ways.



**Join us on January 22, 2016
Washington, D.C.**

The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring a charter bus departing directly from St. John’s.

The Knights of Columbus sponsored bus is almost full. Don’t delay if you want to be a part of this day.

If you are interested in reserving a seat, contact a Knight or leave a message at the parish office.

The Affirming Sound of Our Names

Hearing our name spoken from the mouth of a parent is a moving and affirming sound. It conveys the sense of being personally known and cherished, no longer an anonymous every man or woman, but someone who belongs to a family. The calling of our name suggests that we have unique gifts, dreams, and potentials. Yet, names also link us to history and purpose, to great figures who may inspire or guide the direction of our lives. *Our baptismal names link us through grace to the family of God.*

Thus, our new pope chose the name, Francis, and the legacy of that name was immediately apparent in his humble, simple, and personal ways. Perhaps the grace of hearing our names is best stated by the prophet Isaiah: “I have called you by name; you are mine.”

Prayer: “Father, you call us by name and we are yours. May we live up to the legacy of Christ in whose name we are all chosen.” Amen.



Tell your family & friends!

Our Lady of Guadalupe

mission image is staying a bit longer. *Our Lady* will be with us on display in our chapel for you to venerate through to *The Epiphany of Our Lord.*

Prayer For The New Year

On New Year’s Eve or New Year’s Day, the household gathers at the table or at the Christmas tree or manger scene. Many people make New Year’s Day a day of prayer for peace.

All make the sign of the cross. The leader begins:

*Let us praise the Lord of days and seasons and years, saying:
Glory to God in the highest!*

R/. And peace to his people on earth!

The leader may use these or similar words to introduce the blessing:

Our lives are made of days and nights, of seasons and years, for we are part of a universe of suns and moons and planets. We mark ends and we make beginnings and, in all, we praise God for the grace and mercy that fill our days.

Then the Scripture is read, Book of Genesis 1:14-19: (The family’s Bible may be used for an alternate reading such as Psalm 90:1-4.) The Word of the Lord.

R/. Thanks be to God.

After a time of silence, members of the household offer prayers of thanksgiving for the past year, and of intercession for the year to come. On January 1, it may be appropriate to conclude these prayers with the Litany of the Blessed Virgin Mary (in Part VII: Litanies) since this is the solemn feast of Mary, Mother of God. In conclusion, all join hands for the Lord’s Prayer. Then the leader continues:

Let us now pray for God’s blessing in the New Year.

After a short silence, parents may place their hands on their children in blessing as the leader says:

Remember us, O God;

from age to age be our comforter.

You have given us the wonder of time,

blessings in days and nights, seasons and years.

Bless your children at the turning of the year

and fill the months ahead with the bright hope that is ours in the coming of Christ.

You are our God, living and reigning, forever and ever.

R/. Amen.

(Another prayer for peace may be said such as the Prayer of St. Francis)

The leader says: Let us bless the Lord.

All respond, making the sign of the cross: Thanks be to God.

The prayer may conclude with the singing of a Christmas carol.

DECEMBER 27TH – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH



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, Glenn DeKutowski, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Josephine Fasano, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite, 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, 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

January 2nd & 3rd, 2016 – Epiphany of the Lord

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday, 5:00pm	Bruce Keyser Patti Keyser Anne Slifer Dave Slifer	Marie Louzon	Hannah Hughes Maya Reshetar Gavin Reshetar	Ordinary Time
Sunday, 8:00am	Geri Belsito Jackie Litzenberger Marianne McEvoy Bea Romaszewski	Helene Bell	Danny Froman Samantha Froman Emily Froman	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday, 10:30am	Wendy DeGroot Dolly Kovacs Leona Russell Donna Sciacca	Melissa Johnson	Nicole DeCicco Cauis VanHaute ?	Susan Middleton ?