

## DECEMBER 6, 2015 – SECOND SUNDAY IN ADVENT

### PARISH STAFF

**Pastor:** Rev. Simione 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*.

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### Meetings for the week of December 7 - 13, 2015

**Mon. Dec. 7:** Conquest, 6:40pm – Parish Hall

**Sat. Dec. 12:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room  
Woman's Brunch, 10am – Parish Hall

**Sun. Dec. 13:** Teen RCIA, 11:45am – Marian Room

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**TUESDAY, DECEMBER 8<sup>th</sup> HOLY DAY OF  
OBLIGATION - PARISH OFFICE WILL BE CLOSED**

### Masses for the Week of Dec. 7 - 13, 2015

#### Monday, Dec. 7

8:00am (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

8:35am (chapel) Margaret Mackell (Janet Souza)

6:45pm – 7:15pm – Private Confession Available

7:00pm (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

7:30pm (chapel) For an increase of vocations to the priesthood and the religious life, especially within our diocese

#### Tuesday, Dec. 8 – FEAST OF IMMACULATE CONCEPTION

8:30am (church) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

9:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

7:00pm (church) Divine Mercy Chaplet

7:30pm (church) The Jubilee of Mercy brings renewed compassion and forgiveness to all families.

#### Wednesday, Dec. 9 – MEMORIAL OF JUAN DIEGO

8:00am (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

8:35am (chapel) Phyllis Gervase (Donna Sciacca)

6:45pm – 7:15pm – Private Confession Available

7:00pm (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

7:30pm (chapel) That in this new year, family members strive to support and help one another.

#### Thursday, Dec. 10

8:00am (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

8:35am (chapel) Lucky Lambing (Lorraine)

6:45pm – 7:15pm – Private Confession Available

7:00pm (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

7:30pm (chapel) For mothers tempted to have an abortion, may they find the courage to protect the new lives that have been entrusted to them.

#### Friday, Dec. 11

8:00am (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

8:35am (chapel) Mary Scott (Faculty, Staff & friends @ RA)

6:45pm – 7:15pm – Private Confession Available

7:00pm (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

7:30pm (chapel) For the protection of all Christians from religious persecution and martyrdom and that there be an end to acts of terrorism at home and abroad.

#### Saturday, Dec. 12 - FEAST OF OUR LADY OF GUADALUPE

8:30am (chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

9:00am (chapel) The triumph of the Immaculate Heart will be seen, felt and experienced historically by all mankind still living.

4:30pm (church) Choir Prayers & Hymns to Mary

5:00pm (church) Inez Becker (SJB Cancer Support Group)

6:00pm Procession of Blessed Sacrament & Image to Chapel

#### Sunday, Dec. 13

7:30am (church) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

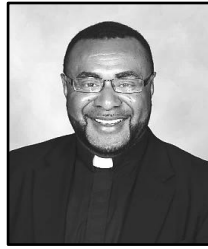
8:00am (church) Lucy Sciacca (Donna Marie, Lucyann & Judielynn)

10:00am (church) Divine Mercy Chaplet & Rosary

10:30am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

*Gospel Reflections*

*A Letter from  
Our Pastor, Father Simi*



*Dear brothers and sisters,*

***The word of God came to  
John the son of Zechariah in the desert.  
Luke 3:2***

We are now into the second week of Advent, a special and grace-filled time of retreat for the whole church. As disciples of Christ, we take time out from all the busy-ness of life to redirect and fix our gaze on Him. We sit at His feet to listen to Him and to be nourished by Him and then to be sent by Him.

Advent in literal terms means the coming or arrival of something or someone. For us as Christians, we await the coming of a very specific person: Jesus. In this season of Advent, we anticipate with eager longing Jesus' arrival.

But do we truly anticipate with eager longing the arrival of Jesus? This anticipation, we know from our daily experience, is probably not even there. If it is, it is not always there; it comes and goes. When the anticipation is there, it waxes and wanes, not really strong, but tepid, even lukewarm at times.

How much do we long for Jesus' coming? This is where our reflections for Advent must begin. Do we even want Him to come? Is He even anywhere in our current situations, our daily preoccupations, our family life, our education, our politics, and our religions?

If Jesus is, where is He in all of this? Is He at the center or on the outskirts, the peripheries? Is He the One in whom we place all our hope, or is He just one of many options? Where is Jesus in our list of priorities?

This is the stuff of conversion and repentance. This is where John the Baptist comes in. This is when Jesus Himself, God's Word, helps us in our longing, our waiting. He helps us through the ministry of John the Baptist, the prophet of repentance.

Every human heart longs, restlessly and violently longs. Its longing is so violent and dizzying that it does not always know for what or for whom it longs. So it seeks rest and consolation desperately in things and people. The heart then becomes so attached to these things and people only to be frustrated at not finding the rest it longs for.

So we jump from thing to thing, toy to toy, relationship to relationship, parish to parish, church to church, country to country, government to government. Our loyalties keep changing and our frustrations keep growing. Frustrations then exacerbates into violence and terror.

Today, our Lord calls us back to the very desert of our lives where John the Baptist awaits us. With John's prayerful intercessions, we are going to open our empty hearts and rediscover the longing we have deep within it for that water that never runs dry, that river that has its source in a Heart that is overflowing with eternal longing for us too.

With John the Baptist's help, we are going to discover the things and people we are attached too, expecting from them the eternal that they themselves are seeking. With God's grace, we will see our slavery and imprisonment to material and passing things.

This must happen first. When it does, we find that Christ's has already arrived, taking up residence in our hearts. Within our hearts, He liberates us from our slavery to sin and to death. Very slowly and very surely, very quietly and very humbly, Jesus unties the chains that bind us to evil, freeing us to embrace Him and to be led by Him to His Father and our Father; to go back home.

From day to day, as we allow our Lord to shed light on our hearts and the chains that bind it, we find ourselves free to welcome Him, embrace Him, and surrendering to Him as He leads us to our Father who Himself has eternally longed for our arrival, our advent.

*Fr. Simi.*

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**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



**The voice is JOHN...the  
WORD IS CHRIST**

John is the voice, but the Lord is the Word who was in the beginning. John is the voice that lasts for a time; from the beginning Christ is the Word who lives forever. Take away the word, the meaning, and what is the voice? Where there is no understanding, there is only a meaningless sound. The voice without the word strikes the ear but does not build up the heart. However, let us

**P** observe what happens when we first seek to build up our hearts. When I think about what I am going to say, the word or message is already in my heart. When I want to speak to you, I look for a way to share with your heart what is already in mine. In my search for a way to let this message reach you, so that the word already in my heart may find place also in yours, I use my voice to speak to you. The sound of my voice brings the meaning of the word to you and then passes away. The word which the sound has brought to you is now in your heart, and yet it is still also in mine. When the word has been conveyed to you, does not the sound seem to say: The word ought to grow, and I should diminish? The sound of the voice has made itself heard in the service of the word, and has gone away, as though it were saying: My joy is complete. Let us hold on to the word; we must not lose the word conceived inwardly in our hearts.

Do you need proof that the voice passes away but the divine Word remains? Where is John's baptism today? It served its purpose, and it went away. Now it is Christ's baptism that we celebrate. It is in Christ that we all believe; we hope for salvation in him. This is the message the voice cried out.

Because it is hard to distinguish word from voice, even John himself was thought to be the Christ. The voice was thought to be the word. But the voice acknowledged what it was, anxious not to give offense to the word. I am not the Christ, he said, nor Elijah, nor the prophet. And the question came: Who are you, then? He replied: *I am the voice of one crying in the wilderness: Prepare the way for the Lord.*

The voice of one crying in the wilderness is the voice of one breaking the silence. Prepare the way for the Lord, he says, as though he were saying: "I speak out in order to lead him into your hearts, but he does not choose to come where I lead him unless you prepare the way for him".

To prepare the way means to pray well; it means thinking humbly of oneself. We should take our lesson from John the Baptist. He is thought to be the Christ; he declares he is not what they think. He does not take advantage of their mistake to further his own glory. If he had said, "I am the Christ", you can imagine how readily he would have been believed, since they believed he was the Christ even before he spoke. But he did not say it; he acknowledged what he was. He pointed out clearly who he was; he humbled himself. He saw where his salvation lay. He understood that he was a lamp, and his fear was that it might be blown out by the wind of pride.

**Let us pray..."Lord, fill me with your Holy Spirit and inflame my heart with love for your word. May I radiate the joy of the gospel to those around me" Amen.**

**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 Jableau,**  
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



**Summer 2016**

**"Catholic Heart Work Camp Mission Trip"**

**DEPOSIT NOW DUE NOW!**

**Dec. 15<sup>th</sup> - LATEST!**

**WOMEN-SERMONS**

**Are you Registered yet?**  
Registration Forms are in the Narthex

**Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>  
at 10am in the Parish Hall.**

*in honor of*



**Our Lady of Guadalupe**

\*Sponsored by the SJB Evangelization Team



### OUR LORD'S PANTRY



Please place **wrapped** gifts under the Tree by Friday, Dec. 11<sup>th</sup>

### St. John's Parish MUSIC MINISTRIES



We are looking for both Cantors and Musicians.

*Do you sing, play the piano, organ or guitar?*  
If interested in learning more about joining us, please leave your name and contact info with our parish office.



### Christmas Eve Musical Prelude to Mass

30 min before the start of our Christmas Eve Masses come in and enjoy the musical talents of  
5PM featuring ORDINARY TIME  
9PM 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 Caenter 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.

### Cleaning Team for the week of Dec. 7<sup>th</sup>

is Team # 3:

**Betty White, Janice Bebb, Mary Kosmin,  
Andrea James**

*Your parish thanks you!*



### Mass Collection

Sunday, November 22, 2015

\$ 6,591.00

Sunday, November 29, 2015

\$ 6,771.00

*Thank you for your generosity!*



*The Altar Flowers donated the weekend of Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> & 13 are in memory of Inez Becker by her loving husband John Becker.*

### The Jubilee of Mercy - Dec. 8, 2015 – Nov. 20, 2016

In proclaiming a Jubilee Year of Mercy, the Holy Father has exercised the authority given to him by Jesus Christ (Mt 16:19) and opened for us a time of grace. The Year of Mercy is about many things: the tender mercy God shows to all mankind, repentance from sin as our response to God's mercy and the mercy we are called to show to others. At the center of this holy year is our personal relationship with Jesus Christ. We are called to look honestly at our relationship with the Lord, to turn from the ways that we have preferred our own will to his and to seek reconciliation. This puts the Sacrament of Penance and Reconciliation at the center of the Year of Mercy. During this holy year, each of us is invited to renew or begin a commitment to the regular practice of sacramental confession. It is here that we will hear with our ears and experience in our hearts Jesus' most consoling words, "I absolve you of your sins." Even if it has been a long time since your last Confession, Pope Francis encourages you, "...Do not lose another day. Go, the priest will be good...Dear friends, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation means being enfolded in a warm embrace: it is the embrace of the Father's infinite mercy." Catholic Tradition: "In the Roman Catholic tradition, a Holy Year, or Jubilee is a great religious event. It is a year of forgiveness of sins and also the punishment due to sin, it is a year of reconciliation between adversaries, of conversion and receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation, and consequently of solidarity, hope, justice, commitment to serve God with joy and in peace with our brothers and sisters. A Jubilee year is above all the year of Christ, who brings life and grace to humanity." (Vatican website)

## DECEMBER 6, 2015 – SECOND 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., 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, Florence Middleton, Joseph Moore, Jennie Moreno, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, Helene Nastro, 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, Mario Sciacca, 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 Dec. 12<sup>th</sup> & 13<sup>th</sup>, 2015

### *3rd Sunday in Advent - Year C*

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday, 5:00pm Dec. 12</b>	John Becker Joe Cegielski Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey	Marie Louzon	Liam Reixinger Maya Reshetar Gavin Reshetar	Choir Sue Rogers
<b>Sunday, 8:00am Dec. 13</b>	Marianne McEvoy Jim McHugh Kevin Murphy Harry Reckner	Jeanne Keller	Danny Froman Samantha Froman Emily Froman	Ordinary Time
<b>Sunday, 10:30am Dec. 13</b>	Joanne DaCunha Dolly Kovacs Donna Sciacca NOT FILLED	Kathy Fetter	Aiden Blaikie Joey DeVenuto Hannah Hughes	Children's Choir Nio Logaivau