

**PARISH STAFF**

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

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

**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 Feb. 13 - 19, 2017**

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

**Monday, Feb. 13**

8:35am (chapel) Frank Loew (Dave and Ann Slifer)

**Tuesday, Feb. 14**

8:35am (chapel) Harry Gillin (Jon Kelly)

**Wednesday, Feb. 15**

8:35am (chapel) Gladys Proca (Bette, David & Diane)

**Thursday, Feb. 16**

8:35am (chapel) Rosemarie Alex (Palisades Friends)

**Friday, Feb. 17**

9:00am (church) John Reidler (Wife Janet & Family)

**Saturday, Feb. 18**

5:00pm (church) Mary Knoble (her loving Sons)

**Sunday, Feb. 19**

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Joey Walsh (Mr. & Mrs. Fox)

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**Meetings for the week of Feb. 13 - 19, 2017**

**Mon. Feb. 13:** Conquest, 6:40pm – School Gym

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7pm – Marian Room

**Thurs. Feb. 16:** Nitty Gritty Grdn Club, 7pm – Marian Room

**Sat. Feb. 11:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room



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**Weekly Mass Collection**

**February 5, 2017**

**\$ 6,062.00**

**Parish Giving \$ 312.00**

**Thank you for your generosity!**



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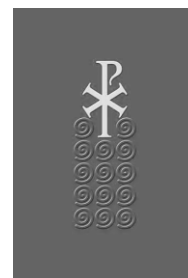
**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of  
February 13th is Team # 5:**

*Marion Wolf, Janet Reidler,  
Fred Furmaniak, Beth Baird,  
Patricia Combs*

***Your parish Thanks You!***

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**Our Mass READINGS this  
week  
may be found in the  
Journeysongs Hymnal  
Section 943  
(Year A)**



# Gospel Commentary

by Msgr. Joseph A. Pellegrino

In the Gospel of Matthew there are five main talks or discourses of the Lord modeled on the five books of the Law or the Torah. The first main discourse of the Law is the most important--the Sermon on the Mount. Just as Moses went up Mount Sinai to bring the Ten Commandments, God's Law to the people, Jesus climbs the mountain of the Beatitudes to present the New Law to the people.

Perhaps with this in mind we can understand Jesus's opening remarks in today's gospel: "I came not to abolish the law and the prophets, but to fulfill them." In the eyes of the Lord the Hebrew Scripture are not only valid; they hold a place of greater reverence than ever before. But merely fulfilling the ancient law was not enough. The attitudes and lifestyles of the Christian must reflect living the law.

When he introduced the New Law of the Kingdom of God Jesus said something that was absolutely shocking. He said that the holiness of the people had to surpass that of the scribes and the Pharisees. How could anyone be holier than the Pharisees? Well, Jesus explains, our external actions must be a reflection of what we really are like. If what we do is not a reflection of who we are, then we are hypocrites. Hypocrite, that's the word that Jesus uses over and over to describe the Pharisees. Hypocrite is also a word that we all secretly fear others would use about each of us. To avoid being a hypocrite, our whole attitude in life must be Christian.

To demonstrate his point, Jesus contrasts the written law of the Torah with the new attitude of the Kingdom that must motivate this law. For example Jesus says, "You have heard it said that murder is wrong, but harboring hatred is also wrong even if you don't physically kill someone. Why...because murder is conceived by hatred. The person who hates but does not murder is not a good person. He is just a person who has followed the social norms perhaps to avoid punishment. It is the same with all the laws and rules of the New Kingdom. The Lord's point is that following the law demands living the lifestyle that gives rise to the law. Living the life of the Lord motivates the Christian rather than the minimal performing the law.

It is important that we convey this message to our children. I want to re-enforce the efforts that I know you are making to have your children understand the motivation for their actions. Consider asking the children "why" a particular action is good or bad. For example, "You did very well on your report card. That is very good.

Do you know why? Because you are showing a respect for the gift God gave you by developing your mind."

Maybe we need to do the same thing for ourselves. For example, "I am here in Church. This is good. Why? Because I belong to God and He to me. I need to have this intimate union with Him in the Scripture and the Eucharist at least once a week." Or, "I really lost it with my spouse or my kids. This is bad. Why? Not just because anger is bad, but I sinned against the love that animates our family, the love which really is the Love of God."

You see, it is not in the action itself but it is in the motivation behind the action where the person's true identity is found and formed. We are called to take upon ourselves the very identity of Jesus Christ. We are called to be selfless givers. We are called to be eternal lovers of the Father. We are called to rejoice in His presence in our families. We are not called to be minimalists in the faith. We are called to develop the facility of finding meaning in the laws that God gave us so that our external actions might truly be a reflection of our internal attitudes.

So, is it easier to be a modern Christian than an ancient Jew? Absolutely not. Christianity is extremely demanding upon us all because it calls us to be 100% committed to living in the presence of the Lord Jesus Christ.

When we make efforts to be wholesome, sincere, than our holiness, yours and mine, will surpass even that of the scribes and Pharisees.

Tall order. Absolutely. And that is why we are here today. We are here in prayer to ask God to help us be Christians.



## FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

Bedminster, PA

### "A QUIET COUNTRY RETREAT"

Offering Private and Small Group Retreats

Daily Programs For Up To 50 People

Overnight Retreats For Individuals and Small Groups

"A RETREAT IS LEAVING THE WORLD AROUND YOU TO SPEND SOME QUALITY TIME WITH GOD."

Programs Open To Everyone

Monday 7:30 pm – Adoration and Prayers

Wednesday 9:30 am Adoration and Prayers

Each 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 12 noon – Adoration and Prayers For Vocations

Each 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday 10 am – Mass, Confessions, Rosary and Lunch

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 13, 2017

100<sup>th</sup> FATIMA ANNIVERSARY

If you have some free time and would like to help with activities and retreats at Fatima House, we would love to have you join us.

Please call Joan Black at 215- 536 3508



## TEACH THE CHILDREN

### "Praying as a family"

Just as we tell and retell family stories from year to year, so too we read and reread Sacred Scripture and pass on these stories from generation to generation. School children of all ages enjoy stories from Scripture. When reading Scripture stories, be sure to stress that these stories are from the Bible, God's holy book.

Keep the Bible in a special place in your home and show reverence for God's Word as you handle the Bible and as you speak the words of Scripture. Sacred Scripture is also a source for prayer.

We use the words of Scripture in prayer, and we also pray with Scripture, meditating on the words and asking God to help us uncover the message for us today. We do so seeking to live faithfully according to God's Word. Saint Ignatius of Loyola taught a way to pray with Scripture that engages the imagination, which can be adapted for use with children.

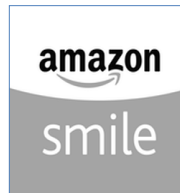
Choose a time during the day that best suits your family schedule, find a quiet, comfortable place and enjoy reading aloud. When you have finished, take a few minutes to talk about the story together. You might make connections between your family's experiences and the Bible story or talk about what it might have been like to be a person in the story.

Share a moment of prayer together. Begin by inviting your child to share with you a moment of quiet and awareness of God's presence. You might use these words: "Let us sit very still and become quiet for prayer. Remember God always loves us." Developing the practice and habit of quiet is a wonderful gift we can share with our children, and is also a gift we can give ourselves.



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Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading



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School Headmaster: Mr. Michael J. Patterson  
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer

Ph: 610-847-5523

[www.sjbottsville.org](http://www.sjbottsville.org)

**CYO**



**News**



## PAINTING PARTY

**Friday, February 24<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm**  
**\$40.00 ticket**

Included with ticket price is...a beautiful picture for you to paint and take home to frame.

- No experience is necessary.
- Step-by-step instructions
- Bring a friend or 2 and share the fun.

All ages welcome.

Tickets/Reservations in advance are strongly suggested.

## CYO Spring Sports Registration Now Open



## High School Co-ed Volleyball and Track

Contact Claire Froman, 215-778-5310 or [cmgeib@aol.com](mailto:cmgeib@aol.com)



**Maria Middleton & Maggie McArdle**  
on being chosen for  
**Region 20 All Stars**

## ST. JOHN'S NEEDS YOUR HELP!



It is no secret that our parish has been blessed with countless VOLUNTEERS who have given their TIME, TALENT and TREASURES to our parish throughout the years.

**Would YOU please consider offering your time and talent in any of the following roles:**

### Music Ministry

We are in need of **musicians**.

*Please contact Nio Logaivau through the parish office or school.*

### American Cross Blood Drive Coordinator

We are in need of 1 or 2 people to work directly with our American Red Cross Blood Drive representative to organize our Blood Drives which are held at the school 2 – 3 times a year. Ideally, this candidate would be a school parent who would be able to coordinate the dates/times/schedule of donors/ and set-up for these drives.

If not one comes forward, the Blood Cross may be forced to discontinue the drives that help our area community.

*Please call Becky in the parish office to volunteer.*

### Cleaning Ministry

We are in need of a few people who are willing to donate their time to keeping our church clean. Currently 5 teams work on a weekly rotation. Each team member sets their own schedule according to their availability during the week they are scheduled to serve. Each team serves less than once a month.

*Please call Becky in the parish office to volunteer.*

## Catholic Family Living

### The Judge

Who sets the rules in your house? Who enforces the rules? The role of the parent in the family is multi-faceted, but a primary purpose for the parent is the enforcer. He or she sets the tone for civility and harmony by being rule maker and rule arbitrator. While younger children might not have the mental capacity to think beyond the authority of the parent, they need to see that even the parent has rules to live by and a higher authority to address. For the Christian parent, he or she is accountable to God and is subject to God's rules. When a parent not only emphasizes that reality, but acts upon it, he or she evangelizes the family. Who is the judge in your home? Talk specifically with one another about how anger is to be dealt with in your family. End your talk with praying for the grace to overcome anger and to show each other respect by following God's Law of love.

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### 2017 PARISH CARNIVAL WED. JUNE 7TH - SAT. JUNE 10TH



### HELP IS NEEDED

We are starting to collect door prize items for our Designer Bag Bingo (Friday, June 9th) and raffle baskets.

Maybe you have an item (gift card, instant lottery tickets, home good, etc.) you would be willing to donate?

Maybe you have a designer purse or wallet to donate for bingo?

Would you be interested in helping collect items from local businesses?

Our bingo is a big part of the carnival. If we are fortunate enough to offer great door prizes, purses and raffle baskets, we can bring people back year after year.

If you can help please call Margaret McArdle at 215-534-1970



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

Susan Ackerman, Lillian Applem.an, Larry Baker, Nancy Beans, John & Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Libby Chapman, Dorothy Cegielski, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, **Joe Fite**, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, **Thomas Fleck**, Claire Fratrik, Violet Freeh, Janet Galen, Kathi Gallegher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Charles Houston, Martha Juchnowicz, Dotsy Keenan, Georgine Kocher, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Sally Lindenmuth, Barbara Lavelle, Charles Lutcavage, Julia Maher, Loretta Malloy, Ray Malachowski, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget Julia McHugh, 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, Don Raman, Mike Ramos, Rachael Rice, Betty Rick, Gregory Rickert, **Joy & Teddy Rodman**, Sandy Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Andrew Schad, Lana Schell, Florence Schroker, Ginny Schulberger, Ronald Schultz, Sr., Frank & Joyce, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Gail Silveira, Baby Ella Stack, Carolyn Stahley, Shane Stroup Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas Toner, Betty Ventresca, Diane Wesoski, Maryjane Whealton, 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, 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.**

## UPCOMING MINISTRY SCHEDULE

**Feb. 18 & 19, 2017**  
**6<sup>th</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday 5:00pm</b>	Darlene Bittenmaster Jim Black Peg Glancey Joel Roney	Jane Ferry	Andrew Hughes Hannah Hughes ?	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmainiak
<b>Sunday 8:00am</b>	Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh Donna Nice Ron Watson	Sean Lynch	Natalie Nice Angelina Day Emily Saab	Choir
<b>Sunday 10:30am</b>	Mark Fetter Lynn Gammello Dan Hauber Jackie Litzenberger	Ward Van Haute	Maria Middleton Audrey Van Haute Caius Van Haute	Tom High Denny Litzenberger Sue Rogers