

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. 20 - 26, 2017

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

Monday, Feb. 20

8:35am (chapel) Rosemarie Alex (Janet Reidler)

Tuesday, Feb. 21

8:35am (chapel) Peter Schulberger (K of C Pope Pius Assembly XII)

Wednesday, Feb. 22

8:35am (chapel) Ann Sulpizio (Tunolo Family)

Thursday, Feb. 23

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

Friday, Feb. 24

9:00am (church) Rosemarie Alex (Tumolo Family)

Saturday, Feb. 25

5:00pm (church) Myron Kressman (Gentner Family)

Sunday, Feb. 26

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Pete Schulberger (Julia Schulberger & family)

Meetings for the week of Feb. 20 - 26, 2017

Sat. Feb. 25: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room



Weekly Mass Collection

February 12, 2017

\$ 5,635.00

Parish Giving \$ 435.91

Thank you for your generosity!

**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of February 20th
is Team # 1:**

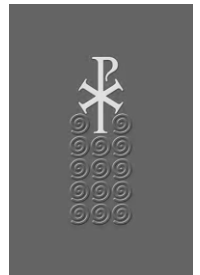


Anita Colahan, Laura Gumprecht, Kate Irvine, Sharon Forte, Lisa Saab

Your parish Thanks You!

**Our Mass READINGS this week
may be found in the
Journeysongs Hymnal**

Section 946



Gospel Reflections

A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Sími



Dear brothers and sisters,

**"You have heard that it was said,
You shall love your neighbor and hate your enemy.
But I say to you, love your enemies
and pray for those who persecute you..
(Matthew 5:43-44)**

Since the Fourth Sunday, (Jan 29, 2017) when we heard the beginning verses of the Beatitudes proclaimed at Mass, our Lord's teachings on that mountain progressively becomes harder and more challenging to us.

Our Lord has been citing teachings of the Old Testament and keeps developing them into even harder teachings. The Ten Commandments and all subsequent laws were hard enough for the Israelites to follow. Our Lord on that mountain of the beatitudes perfects those laws to make them even more difficult to fulfill.

Today, we hear our Lord perfecting the law of loving. In the Old Testament, loving was confined only to fellow Israelites. The hostile non-Israelite was to be considered an enemy and must be dealt with greater hostility to preserve survival of their own Jewish community.

Our Lord today broadens the boundaries of loving to include the enemy who persecutes us individually and as a community of disciples of Jesus. This is even harder. It is hard enough trying to love fellow disciples of Jesus.

It is imperative then that we as disciples prayerfully try to determine the obstacles to fulfilling these beatitudes that make disciples blessed, happy. It is always beneficial for us to acknowledge and not deny our inability to fulfill these beatitudes with our own sheer free will.

We must not deny that our free wills are broken. We know that we cannot simply love enemies who are hostile to us by our own human choosing. We all must recognize how instinctively we retaliate with similar or greater hostility. We heard last Sunday how it all begins with anger. This then develops into name calling, which degenerates even further into murder.

The biggest obstacle to our own happiness and blessedness and holiness that flows from the fulfillment of these beatitudes is this: to treat these sayings as

merely that; sayings, maxims, values and principles to live by. These are not mere slogans or mottos that Christians or good human beings live by.

These beatitudes are expressions of a Person who embodies and impresses these teachings on the souls of His followers. When our Lord pronounced these teachings on that mountain of the beatitude, He was pronouncing them as the Creator who brings to fulfillment what He pronounces: "But I say to you..."

The "I" here is the "I" of God Himself who created the universe by the power of His own Word. Remember St. John's opening words in his gospel, "In the beginning was the Word, the Word was with God and the Word was God. He was in the beginning with God. All things came to be through him, and without him nothing came to be." (John 1:1-3)

So here we must remember that to become happy and blessed and holy, things that we cannot possibly bring about on our own, is to be conformed to a Person and not to subscribe to a set of abstract values or cold and lifeless written down principles.

We as Disciples of Christ find our happiness in being conformed to His Person, to His Being. It is He and not letters on paper or wise human sayings that brings to fulfillment the happy, blessed and holy disciple.

Only when we are conformed to the Person of the Word by the power of His Holy Spirit on the mountain of Calvary can we be happy, blessed, and holy. It was on that mountain that He turned the other cheek, gave His own cloak and tunic, walked the extra mile with the load of the sins of the whole world and gave His life to those who took it by force from Him.

Let us stay with Him on that mountain.

Father Sími



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 3rd Sunday 12 noon – Adoration and Prayers For Vocations

Each 1st Saturday 10 am – Mass, Confessions, Rosary and Lunch

SAVE THE DATE – MAY 13, 2017

100th 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

PREP

TEACH THE CHILDREN

Gospel Reading: Matthew 5:38-48

"My command to you is: love your enemies, pray for your persecutors."

Family life teaches us many things. It is often at home that we learn practical skills such as cooking, riding a bike, and making repairs. Talk about some of the things that the members of your family have learned to do at home. We also learn about caring at home. Talk about times when you have learned a lesson about sharing, forgiving, or loving through an experience that happened at home.

Talk about how love is the most important thing a family can share with one another. Explain that it is the same in God's family. Read aloud this Sunday's Gospel, Matthew 5:38-48. Talk about how Jesus tried to teach his disciples how to love others beyond those who are closest to them. Jesus tells them to love even their enemies. As members of God's family, we are called to do the same thing. Talk about some concrete ways you can "love your enemies and pray for those who persecute you" Remind your children that Jesus does not expect us to be perfect. Jesus knows that we are human and will not always do everything correctly. Explain that what Jesus wants us to do is to love others as if they were Jesus himself. If we reach out in love to others, we are doing exactly what Jesus did. That is what perfection looks like. End this time together by praying the Act of Love.

Reminder

CONFIRMATION RETREAT

Saturday, Feb. 25th

12noon-5pm

Pope John Paul II High School,
Royersford, PA

For CANDIDATES ONLY

Retreat T-Shirts are to be worn to retreat.



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

COME ONE, COME ALL TO THE ACADEMY

FREE "THANK YOU" BREAKFAST

Open to all families of our school & parish communities.

~ Let us know if you are coming ~

Register by Feb. 27th @

www.sjbottsville.org/ThankYou



Amazon will donate 0.5% of the price of your eligible **AmazonSmile** purchase to **The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist** whenever you shop on AmazonSmile.

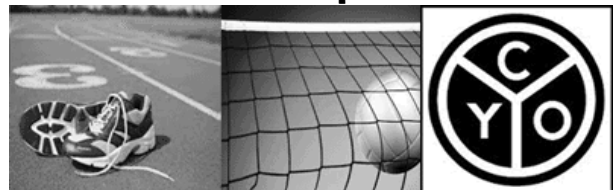
Go to www.smileamazon.com from your computer or mobile device. You will be asked to "select a charitable organization, scroll down the list and click on our school name. It's that simple!"

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

Ph: 610-847-5523

www.sjbottsville.org

CYO Spring Sports Registration Now Open



High School Co-ed Volleyball and Track

Contact Claire Froman, 215-778-5310

or email to cmgeib@aol.com

Catholic Family Living

Living the Works of Mercy

In the Gospel of Matthew, Jesus describes the judgment that He will give when He comes in Glory (Matthew 25: 31-46). According to Jesus, He will separate the good from the evil as a shepherd separates the sheep from the goats. Those who lived the "Corporal Works of Mercy" will be welcomed into the Heavenly Kingdom, while those who did not live the "Corporal Works of Mercy" will be placed into eternal fire.

Corporal Works of Mercy

Feed the Hungry	Clothe the Naked
Give Drink to the Thirsty	Care for the Sick
Shelter the Homeless	Help the Imprisoned
Bury the Dead	

As a family, try to live the Corporal Works of Mercy. When you go grocery shopping, pick up an extra can of vegetables, a jar of spaghetti sauce, or some peanut butter for the Lord's Pantry at church. If your children are given allowance, teach them to take a bit of their money and buy something monthly, for the poor. Children love animals, they can buy a small bag of cat or dog food that is inexpensive. Take your child to an animal shelter so they may hand their donation over personally. Make a big deal about how he or she helped the shelter to feed these poor orphaned animals out of pure generosity.

Remember to donate clothing that is good, but too small for your children to local charities. Involve your children in this process. Keep in mind that there are families in our own parish community who could use the clothing that your children have out grown. Palisades school in conjunction with the Lord's Pantry collects clothing. Toys that your children no longer play with but are still in good condition may be donated to local hospital children's wards.

Donations of items for expectant mothers who have little or no money may be made to some local charities, for a list of suggested charities visit the Pro-Life table in the Narthex.

As your family gets older you can all become involved in "Habitat for Humanity" if you like. They build homes for families in need and are always looking for help. It is a great experience for your children to understand that they are building a home for a needy family.



2017

WED. JUNE 7TH - SAT. JUNE 10TH

Help Us Collect for our Designer Bag Bingo & Raffle Baskets

The early bird gets the worm, so we need to start our work NOW!

Would you be interested in helping us collect items from local businesses?
Gift Cards, Instant Lottery tickets, Home Goods (you get the idea!)

Maybe you have a *Designer Purse or Wallet* to donate for our bingo?

Great Prizes come from Great Donations!!!!

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

The Nitty Gritty Garden Club wishes to thank everyone who has helped with the beautification of our new ***Tear Drop Fountain and Prayer Garden.*** Without your support we would never have come this far.

However, the work is not over.

Your continued support through the purchase of



a paving brick will bring to fruition the vision we all share for the completion of this project which graces the front of our beautiful church.

Paving brick order forms may be found in our Narthex on the side bulletin boards.

Some purchased bricks have been engraved but have not yet to been placed in the garden.

Please contact Tom High at (home)610-847-2374 or (cell) 215-350-3759 for a status update or to place an order.

May God bless & thank you for your continued support.



PRAYER REQUEST

**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,
Patti Bucci, 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. 25 & 26, 2017 - 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time
March 1, 2017 – Ash Wednesday (Tentative Schedule)**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5:00pm	Joan Black Joe Cegielski Cathy Leidtke Marion Wolf	Helene Bell	Aidan Blaikie Luke Grindrod Mead Grindrod	Ordinary Time
Sunday 8:00am	Marianne McEvoy Kevin Murphy Bea Romaszewski Weez Roney	Jeanne Keller	Danny Froman Sammy Froman Violet Williams	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 10:30am	Gerri Belsito Wendy DeGroot Dolly Kovacs Phil Donahue	(Need Sub)	Kaelin Costello Emily Saab (Need Sub)	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
Ash Wednesday March 1st 9am	Joan Black	Donna Sciacca	Kaelin Costello Maria Middleton	?
7:30pm	Lynn Gammello	Sean Lynch	Gianna Gammello	?