

**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  
February 29 – March 6, 2016**  
Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel,  
Mon – Fri at 8:15am

**Monday, Feb. 29**

8:35am (chapel) Tom Pyle (Frank & Linda Dellmyer)

**Tuesday, March 1**

8:35am (chapel) Betty Weber (Sue & Tom Rogers)

**Wednesday, March 2**

8:35am (chapel) Robert Gaffney (Ellen Chapman &  
Michael Moss)

7:00pm Confession

7:30pm (chapel) Parishioners' Intentions

**Thursday, March 3**

8:35am (chapel) Doris LaManna (Tony & Rose Polito)

**Friday, March 4 – First Friday 24-Hour Adoration**

9:00am (church) Bruch Family (RA at SJB)

7:30pm (church) Stations of the Cross

**Saturday, March 5 – First Saturday Benediction & Mass**

9:00am (chapel) George J. Beerley, Jr. (McDevitt Family)

5:00pm (church) Consolation of Hopta family & soul of  
Christopher Hopta (Fr. Simi & Parish)

**Sunday, March 6 – 2<sup>nd</sup> Scrutiny at 10:30 Mass**

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Thomas Musick (Elaine Musick)

---

**Meetings for the week of Feb 29 – March 6, 2016**

**Mon. Feb. 29:** Lenten Bible Study, 7:30pm – chapel

**Tues. March 1:** Lenten Bible Study, 9:30am – Marian Room  
Choir Practice, 7pm – church

**Fri. March 4:** Blood Drive, 2-7pm – Parish Hall

**Sat. March 5:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

**Sun. March 6:** Teen RCIA, 11:30am – Marian Room

---

**Mass Collections**

Sunday, February 21, 2015

\$ 6,595.50

*Thank you for your generosity!*



---

**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of  
February 29th is Team # 5:**

**Marion Wolf, Janet Reidler, Fred Furmaniak,  
Beth Baird, Peggy Farley**  
*Your parish thanks you!*



---

**Today's READINGS may be found:**

**5pm & 8am Mass - Section 891**

**10:30am Mass - (RCIA Optional) Section 889A**  
**in the *JourneySongs Missal* book.**

## *Gospel Reflections*

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



*Dear brothers and sisters,*

***But I tell you, if you do not repent, you will all perish  
as they did!  
(Luke 13:3)***

All of us have certain ideas about ourselves, our own choices and the consequences of those choices. These ideas are being scrutinized during this season of Lent and with particular focus today, the Third Sunday of Lent.

The idea we have about who we are is today questioned by the readings of today's Mass. An honest examination of our conscience will reveal that we are still struggling to determine who we are. We recognize that we are still developing, evolving and becoming.

We also realize that whatever we become at the end of our life here on earth is largely determined by the choices we make. The choices we make are based on a certain vision/understanding of the person we want to become.

These thoughts may seem very philosophical and we may think that most people do not think about these things at all. But we do. All the time. Each and every thought and choice you make seek to bring about a happier you, better you, an eternally happy you. No one seeks to perish.

Yet today's gospel reading shocks us. Just because we have not yet perished like those Galileans who have died horrible deaths at the command of Pilate and even beyond death still faced greater humiliation by having their blood mingled with sacrifices offered to Roman gods, does not mean that we will not perish too.

If our way of thinking does not change, that is, if we do not repent in our way of thinking and in our way of choosing, we will certainly perish too. This is the wakeup call that Jesus is trying to shock us with today.

I am who God says I am. This is the thought that must replace the thought that I am who I say I am. We are not self-made beings. We are not God. This is the truth of who we are as creatures and who God is as Creator.

This truth is being proclaimed in today's first reading: YWHW: "I am who am." Only God can say this because only He exists of His own choosing and not any other.

You and I cannot and did not will ourselves into being. We completely depend on God to do so. We also completely depend on God to determine who we are meant to become and how we will become that.

Just as God sustains the burning tree without consuming it with the fire of His own Being, so does He bring us into existence and sustain us in our existence with the fire of His love without consuming our own existence and our own essence as a separate being.

We completely depend on Him to even exist and to remain in existence. This is the truth proclaimed to us on Ash Wednesday: remember that you are dust and unto dust you will return. It is a very sobering reminder of our utter dependence on God to be anything more than dust.

Yet here we are continually imprisoned by the thought that we do not need God to tell us who we are supposed to be and how we will become it. This is the original sin of Adam and Eve that you and I inherited and are imprisoned by in every fiber of our being.

Instead of becoming the radiant bush that is enflamed but not consumed by God's infinite love, we have become the fruitless fig tree that Jesus mentions in today's gospel.

So what is going to become of us? We repent; that is, we turn to Jesus, the Planter of us. He does not want us to be cut down. He wants to dig around us and fertilize us and make us fruitful again.

How does He do that? He gives Himself to us as 'fertilizer' (life giver) by dying with us and having our lifeless, fruitless blood and body mingled with the sacrifice of His own body and blood that He surrendered on the cross at the command of Pilate.

Till at last we become that burning bush in heaven let us for now repent, repent, and repent.

## *Father Simi*

---

**FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER, Bedminster, PA**

***Join us in Praying for Vocations & World Peace***

### **Weekly Prayers**

**Mondays at 7pm in Our Lady's Chapel:** *Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary and Divine Mercy Chaplet*

**Wednesdays at 9:30am in Our Lady's Chapel:**

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

**Every 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday at 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.





### WHY THE SCRUTINIES in RCIA

Did you know that Lent originated as a time of prayer and fasting for those who were preparing for baptism? The entire Church quickly caught on to the season, but unfortunately the baptismal roots of Lent were forgotten. Following the reforms of Vatican II, the RCIA process was re-introduced. The Church once again walks with the elect toward the great feast of Easter.

Unbaptized persons over the age of 18 who wish to join the Church are enrolled in a process called the Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults (RCIA) and for those over the age of 12 we offer Teen RCIA. Those who have never been baptized are called *catechumens* for most of the RCIA process, which lasts at least six months. *On the first Sunday of Lent, the catechumens are presented and are enrolled in the Book of the Elect, after which they are called the elect.*

**The Scrutinies.** This is the name given to the three brief ceremonies for those who are preparing for baptism at the Easter vigil. These ceremonies are celebrated on the third, fourth, and fifth Sundays of Lent. At the scrutiny, these people are presented to the Church community, which prays for them, so that they may defeat sin and Satan, successfully endure temptation, and be strengthened in Christ.

Why all this fuss? Why not do all this quietly and privately? Because we are the People of God welcoming new people to our midst. When a person is baptized or received into the Catholic Church, they are received by Christ into his body, the community of faith. We have great cause to rejoice that men and women wish to be part of us, and we celebrate that fact.

It also is a good time to remind ourselves that we have been given the faith by the grace of the Lord acting through the people who brought us to faith. Every time someone joins the Church, it should prompt us to consider whether we are providing encouragement and good example to them. Further, we should pause to remember and to thank God for the good people who taught us the faith, whether they are parents and grandparents, teachers, friends or neighbors. God has worked through them mightily. May he also mightily work through us to share our faith to others!

**Please pray for our elect, Cassandra Pena as she continues on her journey toward full communion in the catholic church to be celebrated at our Easter Vigil Mass.**

**And for our Candidate, Anne Funk who has come back to complete her Sacraments of Initiation. Anne will be receiving**

the Sacrament of Confirmation on April 17<sup>th</sup> along with our parish Confirmation class.



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

*Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading*

### Do you believe that Children benefit from a Classical Catholic Liberal Arts Education?

If so, come and explore for yourself what The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist has to offer.

Call Geoff Meyers to register for one of our....

**KNOWING~LOVING~SERVING~LEADING**

*School Tours!*

Visit our website for our schedule of tours.

School Headmaster: Mr. Michael Patterson  
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer  
Ph: 610-847-5523 [www.sjbottsville.org](http://www.sjbottsville.org)

---

### AMERICAN RED CROSS BLOOD DRIVE

**Friday, March 4<sup>th</sup> from 2pm – 7pm  
in the Parish Hall.**



**Register at [www.redcrossblood.org](http://www.redcrossblood.org)**

**Sponsor code: st john the baptist**

**Call 1-800-redcross or Sylvia 610-847-5647**

---

**Eastern Upper Bucks Senior Center**  
8040 Easton Rd (Rt 611), Ottsville 610-847-8178



**SUNDAY, MARCH 13, 2016**

**Doors open at 12noon ~ Games start at 1pm**

**20 Games for \$15.00**

**Plus 4 specials available at add'l cost**



**Lunch & Snacks for sale.  
Door prizes, 50/50**



**Jubilee Year of Mercy**

### RESPONDING TO THE WORLD'S MISERY

"The leaders in Jerusalem asked only one thing, that we remember the poor, which was actually what I was eager to do" (Galatians 2:10).

LET US OPEN OUR HEARTS to those living on the outermost fringes of society who have no voice because their cry is muffled and drowned out by the indifference of the rich! We are called to heal these wounds, to assuage them with the oil of consolation, to bind them with mercy and cure them with solidarity and vigilant care. Let us ward off destructive cynicism! Let us open our eyes and see the misery of the world, the wounds of our brothers and sisters who are denied their dignity, and let us recognize that we are compelled to heed their cry for help! May we reach out to them and support them so they can feel the warmth of our presence, our friendship and our fraternity! May their cry become our own and together may we break down the barriers of indifference that too often reign supreme and mask our hypocrisy and egoism!

Let us pray..." Jesus, help me to search out way that I can help the poor and others who need assistance. Amen

### THE WORKS OF MERCY

"Truly I tell you, just as you did not do it to one of the least of these, you did not do it to me" (Matthew 25:45).

IT IS MY BURNING DESIRE that during this holy season the Christian people may reflect on the corporal and spiritual works of mercy. It will be a way to reawaken our conscience, too often grown dull in the face of poverty. And let us enter more deeply into the heart of the Gospel where the poor have a special experience of God's mercy. Jesus introduces us to these works of mercy in his preaching so that we can know whether or not we are living as his disciples. Let us rediscover these corporal works of mercy: to feed the hungry, give drink to the thirsty, clothe the naked, welcome the stranger, heal the sick, visit the imprisoned, and bury the dead. And let us not forget the spiritual works of mercy: to counsel the doubtful, instruct the ignorant, admonish sinners, comfort the afflicted, forgive offences, bear patiently those who do us ill, and pray for the living and the dead.

Let us pray..."Jesus, help me to do one or more of these works to imitate your actions to help others."  
Amen



Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist is a Public Assoc. of Christ's Faithful dedicated to helping Catholic men and women, married and single, parents and professionals develop and deepen their spiritual life.

Visit our website [olme@olme.org](http://olme@olme.org) for news and to register on exciting upcoming events you won't want to miss, such as:

**Coming March 7, 2016: Fr. Donald Calloway, M.I.C.-** a world renowned Marian priest and author who will speak to us about *Mercy as a bridge that connects us with God, and on the primary task of the follower of Christ: to introduce others to the great mystery of God's Mercy.*

**Coming March 15<sup>th</sup>: Kathleen McCarthy**

*Morning session incl. Conference, Exposition of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation and Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. Evening session incl. Liturgy of the Hours, Conference, Healing Prayer Service and Eucharistic Adoration & Benediction. These are 2 separate programs.*

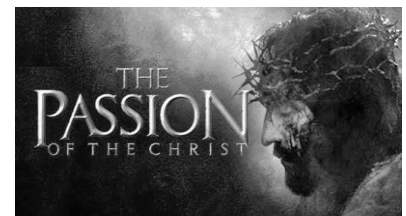
Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist  
640 East Main Street  
Birdsboro, PA 19508  
610-582-3333  
[olme@olme.org](mailto:olme@olme.org)



**THURS., March 10th  
7pm in the Chapel**

Our Feature film is  
**"THE PASSION OF THE CHRIST"**  
Directed by Mel Gibson – 2hr 7min

**Viewer  
discretion is  
advised.  
PG-17  
Extreme**



**Violence**

Depicts the final twelve hours in the life of Jesus of Nazareth, on the day of his crucifixion in Jerusalem. In this version of Christ's crucifixion, based on the New Testament, Judas expedites the downfall of Jesus by handing him over to the Roman Empire's handpicked officials. To the horror of his mother Mary, Magdalene, whom he saved from damnation, and his disciples, Jesus is condemned to death. He is tortured

**FEBRUARY 28, 2016 – THIRD SUNDAY OF LENT**



as he drags a crucifix to nearby Calvary, where he is nailed to the cross. He dies, but not before a last act of grace.

**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, Jessica Frankenfield, 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, Nancy, 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, Andrew Schad, 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 2016**

**March 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup>, 2016**

**Fourth Sunday of Lent**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday, 5:00pm March 5, 2016</b>	Darlene Bittenmaster Dorogthy Cegielski Joe Cegielski Cathy Leidtke	Marie Louzon	Brendan Krug Brady Krug Johann Krug	Marion Wolf Karen Parash
<b>Sunday, 8:00am March 6, 2016</b>	Gerri Belsito Marianne McEvoy Jim McHugh Kevin Murphy	Jeanne Keller	Angelina Day Danny Froman Samantha Froman	SJB Choir
<b>Sunday, 10:30am March 6, 2016</b>	Jim Black Joan Black Dolly Kovacks Jackie Litzenberger	Jane Ferry	Nicole DeCicco Joseph Gonzales Gavin Reshetar	Denny L & Tom H Sue Rogers
<b>Friday, March 11 7:30pm Stations of the Cross</b> 			Johann Krug Brady Krug Maria Middleton	Amleto Pucci Karen Parash