

JANUARY 10, 2016 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

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 January 11 - 17, 2016

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

Monday, Jan. 11

8:35am (chapel) Joyce Krug (Katherine Spier)

Tuesday, Jan. 12

8:35am (chapel) Elizabeth Petritsch (Loving Family)

Wednesday, Jan. 13

8:35am (chapel) Grace Rossi (Judy & Woody)

Thursday, Jan. 14

8:35am (chapel) Regina Cullen (Irma Nemes)

Friday, Jan. 15

9:00am (church) Edmund Cervone (RA @ SJB Family)

Saturday, Jan. 16

5:00pm (church) Doris Elaine Fitzpatrick (Liz Torgerson)

Sunday, Jan. 17

8:00am (church) Regina Cullen (Elaine Jocelyn)

10:30am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

Meetings for the week of Jan. 11th – 17th

Mon. Jan 11: Conquest, 6:45pm – School

Prayer Shawl Ministry, 7pm – Marian Room

Thurs. Jan. 14: Knights of Columbus, 7pm – Marian Room

Fri., Jan. 15: K of C Free Throw, 6pm - Gym

Sat. Jan. 16: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

Sun. Jan. 17: Teen RCIA, 11:45am – Marian Room

Mass Collections

Christmas 2015
\$16,220.50
Sunday, Dec. 27, 2015
\$5,223.50
Sunday, Jan. 3, 2015
\$6,203.00



Thank you for your generosity!

SJB Cleaning Team for the week of January 11th is Team # 3:

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



Your parish thanks you!

For those who may have difficulty hearing:

Today's **READINGS** may be found in Section 879
within the *JourneySongs Missal* book in your pew.

Gospel Reflections

A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Simi



Dear brothers and sisters,

***After all the people had been baptized
and Jesus also had been baptized and was praying,
heaven was opened and the Holy Spirit descended
upon him in bodily form like a dove. And a voice came
from heaven,
“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”
Luke 3:21-22***

Today we celebrate the baptism of our Lord. It marks the end of our liturgical season of celebrating the mystery of God becoming like one of us at Christmas. Today, in celebrating the baptism of our incarnate Lord in the river Jordan, we enter into the beginning of Jesus' public ministry.

This child born in a stable, raised by Mary and Joseph in Nazareth, and advancing in wisdom and age and favor before God and man, is now going to begin to build the kingdom that the angel Gabriel had first announced to Mary and Joseph.

Jesus is our Immanuel; God-with-us. His presence to us in flesh and blood began the moment He was conceived by the Holy Spirit in the womb of His mother Mary. In Mary's womb, the Son of God immersed Himself in the water of Mary's womb.

Today, we celebrate the mystery of Jesus immersion into the water of our repentance, of our baptism, of our transformation, of our own rebirth. Jesus, the sinless one who is in no need of repentance willingly immersed Himself into the waters of our own repentance. This mystery teaches us that our repentance since the first sin of Adam and Eve have always been powerless to regain the holiness and justice that was first lost. We could not will our way back to our original state of goodness.

This is a truth that Jesus teaches us today: on our own, all our good intentions cannot restore the innocence, the purity, the holiness that was lost. Our repentance, that is, our will to change and become what God intends us to be, can only reach its goal, its fulfillment if Jesus was immersed in our own wills.

Ignorance of this truth or the denial of this truth gives rise to a great deal of disappointment and disillusionment in family life, and in all areas of our life. If we think that we are perfect the way we are, and that our free wills, while free, are not broken, that our minds while intelligent are not ignorant of many things, if we think that we can just decide to be good and do not need divine assistance in being good, then we are in for a lot of disillusionment and pain.

This is the truth we celebrate in the baptism of our Lord. We recognize our brokenness and that even with our own best efforts we are not at all able to arrive at the good, the peace, the unity, the beauty we all seek. Yet, here is our Lord immersing Himself in the waters of our repentance, of our own good intentions, desiring to complete for us our own transformation.

So all of us today remember our own baptisms and rejoice at the truth that Jesus is with us on our journey of repentance, of change. We recognize that this journey is long journey of struggle. Our pride and our ignorance are not so easily overcome.

Yet we remember that we are not alone on this journey that Jesus is with us. He patiently teaches us, inspires us, forgives us and strengthens us to endure the pain that comes from giving birth; from giving birth to a new you, a new me, a new world; His kingdom.

The same Holy Spirit that overshadowed Jesus at His baptism, overshadows us and strengthens us to make our journey from the river Jordan, to Calvary, to eternal life in Heaven with our Father who is empowering us now in His Son, "You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased."

Father Simi

The Pope's message, is a repudiation of millennia's' worth of Church doctrine that equates heresy with sin.



Responding to a list of questions published in the paper by Mr Scafari, who is not a Roman Catholic, Francis wrote: "You ask me if the God of the Christians forgives those who don't believe and who don't seek the faith. I start by saying – and this is the fundamental thing – that God's mercy has no limits if you go to him with a sincere and contrite heart. The issue for those who do not believe in God is to obey their conscience.

"Sin, even for those who have no faith, exists when people disobey their conscience."

JANUARY 10, 2016 – THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD



Today we celebrate the feast of the Baptism of the Lord. The baptism of Jesus is reported in each of the three Synoptic Gospels—Matthew, Mark, and Luke. Clearly, it was an event of great significance for Jesus and for the early Christian community. The Evangelists Mark and Luke report the story from Jesus' perspective; the voice from heaven is addressed to Jesus. Compare this to Matthew's Gospel in which the voice from heaven speaks to everyone. In Luke, however, the Holy Spirit descends upon Jesus during his time of prayer after his baptism. Through his Gospel, Luke will show Jesus to be a person of prayer who withdraws regularly from the crowds and his disciples to pray to his Father.

The baptism of Jesus is considered a manifestation of God in Jesus, another "epiphany." On this, the last day of the Christmas season, our Gospel reveals to us Jesus' relation to God: the son of Mary and Joseph is also God's own Son. In Luke's Gospel, all three members of the Trinity are manifested here: God the Father in the voice, the Holy Spirit descending, and Jesus the Son. At the beginning of his Gospel, Luke is communicating to us important information about the identity of Jesus. In the verses that follow, Luke lists the genealogy of Jesus, tracing Jesus' ancestry back to the first person, Adam, who is also identified as the son of God. We, the children of Adam and Eve, are again made children of God through Baptism.

Every family has a unique identity that is defined by the behaviors, attitudes, and expectations that govern a family's daily life. This identity is influenced by the family history of the parents, but each family's expression of this history is unique. In today's Gospel, we learn that Jesus' behavior, attitudes, and expectations were governed by his identity as God's beloved Son.

This identity as members of the family of God, and as brothers and sisters of Jesus, also shapes our family's daily life.

JANUARY DATES TO REMEMBER

Monday, Jan. 18th – No PREP, Holiday

Tuesday, Jan. 19th (No PREP Classes)
SACRAMENT OF FIRST RECONCILIATION
6pm (Church)
(Snow Date Jan. 21st)



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

Friday, Jan. 15th – Noon Dismissal

School Headmaster: Mr. Michael Patterson
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer
4040 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942
Ph: 610-847-5523 www.sjbottsville.org

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 3rd 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.



Contact Emily Litzenberger through the parish office if you would like to join our parish Youth Group.

In seeking the Face of God, William Shannon says he made a retreat in Gethsemani, Kentucky, in the same hermitage in which Thomas Merton once lived. Alongside it was a bed of tiger lilies. Each evening they would close their petals to the outside world for a while. Each morning, when the sun rose, they would reopen their petals to the world. The rhythmic pattern of the tiger lilies contains an important lesson for us.

We need a rhythm in our lives – Of turning *inward* for a while to pray to God, and of turning *outward* again, to work at the tasks God has given us.



Jubilee Year of Mercy

A Source of Reconciliation and Joy

There's an old joke about a carpenter who went to confession after he had been stealing lumber from his job site. He confessed his sins, and the priest said, "For your penance, make a novena." The carpenter replied, "I'm not quite sure what a novena is, Father, but if you have the blueprints, I have the lumber!"

The story is good for a laugh, but it makes a good point. It raises the question of whether in the Sacrament of Penance anything good can come from our guilt and our sins. Notice the use of the term *penance* rather than *confession*. Confession is just one moment in the celebration of the Sacrament of Penance. Confession probably gets the most attention because it's the scariest part—no one likes to have his or her sins brought into the light—even if it's in the darkness of a confessional. Perhaps in the past the Church focused too much on the telling of the sins and too little on *the joy to be gained through the healing that comes through an encounter with the mercy and forgiveness of God*. Confession is an important step on the way to forgiveness, but it's shortsighted to let this one aspect stand for the whole gift. Here's what the Sacrament of Penance actually offers:

- restoration to honesty—no more need to rationalize
- restoration to integrity—no more need to have secret or unacknowledged parts of your life
- relief from unproductive guilt—transformation of remorse into living a new life. The purpose of this sacrament is not punishment but true reconciliation with God and the community.
- an encounter with God—meeting God in humility (not humiliation!) and weakness
- spiritual guidance—no need to struggle with your moral issues alone
- inner peace—no longer having to live a life at war with yourself
- strength in meeting future challenges and temptations
- grace—rediscovering, as did the prodigal son, your Father's unconditional love.

God longs to forgive you. Remember, God knows that you are much more than the worst thing you've ever done.

Please pray for our parish 2nd graders as they prepare to receive their Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation next week.

5th Annual Fertility Care Appreciation

Mother-Daughter Tea

Saturday, February 6, 2016

1:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Our Lady of Czestochowa

654 Ferry Rd, Doylestown, PA

Mothers of daughters from 10 to 13 years of age! Join us for this special afternoon to explore your human fertility as it is meant, a powerful and precious gift from God. The purpose of this program is to provide an atmosphere of love and learning to discuss the important topic of growing up and beginning to establish a foundation for continued communication between parents and their children, particularly mothers and their daughters. Don't Miss our "Looks for Real Beauty" & Fashion, where your daughters can see what they wear makes a difference, mom & daughter guided discussion and a Q&A session. You and your daughters will hear from a health care professional trained in the Creighton Model FertilityCare System and an experienced, young, energetic speaker will talk about practical and empowering tips on modesty. Both emphasize respect, understanding and appreciation for God's gift of fertility. There will be light refreshments and take home resources for mothers to share with their daughters when they believe they are ready.

Registration Special: \$15 per participant until JANUARY 23, 2016. After 1/23/16: \$20 per participant. Day of Event: \$25 per participant.

For more information, contact:

Liz Parrish, RN, CFCP (Certified FertilityCare Practitioner)

fertilitycareservices@comcast.net • 215-249-9829

Register online at: www.fertilitycarefriends.org

(Click on events).

MARCH FOR LIFE | 2016

**January 22, 2016
Washington, D.C.**

LET YOUR VOICE BE HEARD!

The Knights of Columbus are once again sponsoring a charter bus departing directly from St. John's. *Minimum Suggested Seat Donation is \$20.00 per person* to help defray some of the costs associated with this trip.



If you are interested in reserving a seat, contact a Knight or place your name & contact info on their sign-up sheet in the Narthex at the pro-life table. You may also leave a message for Kevin Murphy or Kathy Fetter through the parish office.

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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 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, 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

January 16th & 17th – Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday, 5:00pm Jan. 16, 2016	John Becker Peg Glancey Cathy Leidtke Anne Slifer	Marie Louzon	Aiden Blaikie Johann Krug Brendan Krug	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday, 8:00am Jan. 17, 2016	Nancy Kaczinski Marianne McEvoy Renee Moyer Donna Nice	Helene Bell	Angelina Day Grace McArdle Natalie Nice	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
Sunday, 10:30am Jan. 17, 2016	Dan Hauber Maryann Hauber Patti Keyser Bruce Keyser	Linda Russo	Gavin Reshetar Maya Reshetar Not Filled	Ordinary Time