

## JUNE 11, 2017 – THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY

### 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

**Finance Manager:** Carolyn Marchese

### 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 call the parish office to schedule an appointment with a priest.

**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. 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 must attend an enrichment class approx. 1 month 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 provide a certificate of eligibility from their 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 to contact the parish office & schedule a meeting with our wedding coordinator approx. 10-12 months in advance of the wedding. Shorter preparation periods must be approved by our Pastor. Couples will meet several times with the Pastor throughout the preparation process. Couples are to attend a Pre-Cana program that is approved 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 June 12 - 18, 2017

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

#### Monday, June 12

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

#### Tuesday, June 13

8:35am (chapel) Ethel Ricks (Doug & Dolores Warmkessel)

#### Wednesday, June 14

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

#### Thursday, June 15

8:35am (chapel) Virginia Moratti Young (Evelyn Kovacs)

#### Friday, June 16

8:35am (chapel) Marianne Przyuski (Miller Family)

#### Saturday, June 17

5:00pm (church) Father's Day Intentions

#### Sunday, June 18 – Feast of CORPUS CHRISTI

##### Father's Day

8:00am (church) Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am (church) Father's Day Intentions

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### Meetings for the week of June 12 - 18, 2017

**Mon. June 12:** Prayer Shawl Mtg., 7pm – Marian Room

**Tues. June 13:** Choir Practice, 7pm – church

**Thurs. June 15:** Garden Club, 7pm – Marian Room

**Sat. June 17:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room



### **Weekly Mass Collection**

**5/28/17:** Envelopes \$7,679.00

Electronic: \$ 227.00

**6/04/17:** Envelopes \$5,552.00

Electronic: \$ 293.00

***Thank you for your generosity!***

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### **SJB Cleaning Team for the week of June 19th is Team # 2:**

*Joyce Melchiorre, Peg Trouts,  
Jean Wurster, Terri DeVenuto*

***Your parish Thanks You!***



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### **Our Mass READINGS for this weekend may be**

**found in**

**SECTION 922**

**of the JourneySongs Hymnal.**



*Gospel Reflections*

*A Letter from  
Our Pastor, Father Simi*



Dear brothers and sisters,

God so loved the world that he gave his only Son,  
so that everyone who believes in him might not  
perish but might have eternal life.  
(John 3:16)

This Sunday is Trinity Sunday, the day we celebrate with great solemnity and reverence the fullness of God's revelation of Himself as One God of Three Persons: the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Three Persons distinct from each other, the Holy Trinity are one in their Godhead, one in their communion of perfect love for each other.

We see here that God in His very essence is not a singular person closed in on himself. His very essence is otherness, relation to another, loving of another, being loved by another.

The Father's whole essence and eternal existence is His love for His Son, and the Son's whole identity is His being the Son of the Father, His whole existence is His eternal love for His Father. Their love for one another is so warm, so complete, so real, so full, so alive, that it is a person, the Person of the Holy Spirit.

The otherness of God the Holy Trinity knows no limit, no end, and no boundary. For this would be totally contradictory to God's very own nature of otherness. Their essence flows over to their creation of other persons to love and be loved by: it flows to us.

We human beings flow from the love essence of the Holy Trinity. Made in the image and likeness of the Holy Trinity, we too share in the love essence of the Holy Trinity, created, designed, and meant to love one another just like our Creator Trinity.

To choose not love is to contradict our own nature. To choose to dismiss, betray, disown or injure another is to choose to dismiss, betray, disown or injure very own selves. We become disfigured, distorted, misshaped and begin to lose our own beauty, our own truth.

Moses, in the first reading of today experiences the revelation of Yahweh to Himself in His essence and nature, His eternal choice to be in loving relationship to others even those who choose not to be in loving relationship with Him. "The LORD,

the LORD, a merciful and gracious God, slow to anger and rich in kindness and fidelity." (Exodus 34:6)

Flowing forth from the Holy Trinity as persons who are created and chosen eternally by Them to love, St. Paul exhorts us in the second reading to be ourselves then, especially when others choose to not love us, to be afraid of us, to not agree with us, and even be hostile to us. In being loyal to them, we are being loyal to ourselves, to who we truly and beautifully are.

To repay betrayal with betrayal, fear with fear, disagreement with cynicism, hostility with hostility is to be at war and peace will escape us. We turn into disfigured, mutated and very ugly versions of ourselves. Life shrivels up.

Life only flourishes and becomes eternal when in recognizing our own fallen nature, fallen from its original nature of love, we choose to love the Son whom the Father delights in from all eternity.

Fallen and disfigured though we are, He still so loves the world that He gave to us His own Son that in choosing to believe in Him, we might not perish into loveless, shriveled up and monstrous persons but like the Son to be eternally in love, unending love of the Father, of Son, of others in the full and real and perfect and living love of the Holy Spirit.

**The grace of the Lord Jesus Christ and the love of God and the fellowship of the Holy Spirit be with all of you. (2 Corinthians 13:13)**

*Fr. Simi*



**FATIMA HOUSE  
RETREAT CENTER**

**Bedminster, PA  
"A QUIET COUNTRY  
RETREAT"**

Daily Programs for up to 50 People  
Offering Private & Small Group  
Retreats  
Overnight Retreats  
Available for Individuals & Small  
Groups

**Programs Open to Everyone**

Monday 7:30PM – Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday 9:30AM – Adoration & Prayers

3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday 12PM – Adoration & Prayer for Vocations.

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturdays 10am Mass, Confession, Rosary & Lunch**

For more information please call Joan Black 215-536-3508



All families are encouraged to **REGISTER NOW** for the **2017-2018 PREP SCHOOL YEAR**. *Registration forms are available for download on our parish website or may be obtained through the parish office.* **PREP is for children attending public and charter schools or who are homeschooled in grades 1 to 7. A minimum of two years of formal religious education is required for the reception of the Sacraments.**

St. John the Baptist Parish Religious Education Program recognizes and embraces parents in their role as the primary catechists of their children. Canon Law, the law of the Church, states that “parents above others are obliged to form their children in the faith and practice of Christian life by word and example; godparents and those who take the place of parents are bound by an equivalent obligation” (Can. 774 §2).

Both the General Directory and the National Directory for Catechesis echo the same sentiment.

It is our mission to provide catechesis on the Catechism and teachings of the Catholic Church so that your child will be formed in the faith and heritage of Catholic tradition.

Our program provides children an opportunity to live their faith through catechesis, service, worship, and fellowship, developing and deepening their personal relationship with Our Lord.

Our program embraces all of its children regardless of special need or disability. We will make every effort to accommodate these children and provide them with an inclusive environment in our program. However, in order to provide the best accommodations possible, it may be necessary for the participant to attend another parish program that is better equipped to meet the participant's needs. If your child has a special need or disability you are encouraged to contact our Director of Religious Education, Donna Sciacca at 610-847-5521 or via email at [prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org) to discuss your concerns and enrollment options.

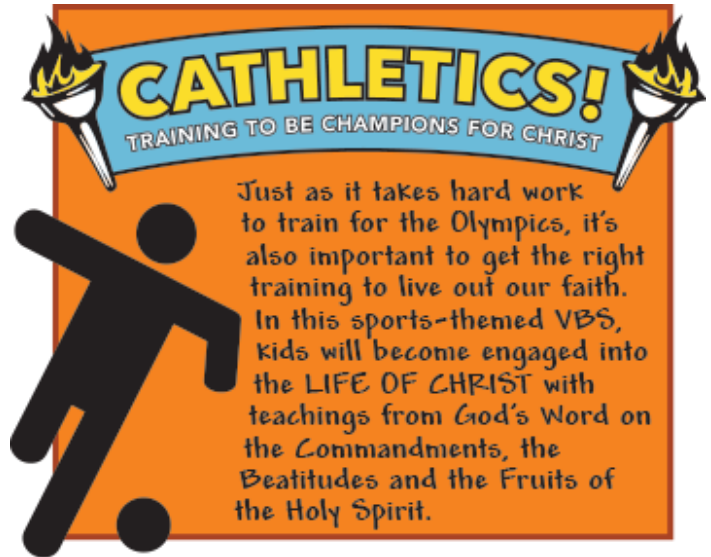


The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

## CatChat Vacation Bible School

(See Flyer in this week's bulletin)



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

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## Nitty Gritty Garden Club



**Thank you to all who came out to support our Spring Plant & Flower Sale over Memorial Day Weekend.**

**We still have a few plants for Sale @ \$10 each for those who may have been away and missed our sale.**

They are outside in our TearDrop Fountain area. Money may be given to Liz or left in an envelope in the Sacristy. Be sure to write on your envelope, “**Plant Sale.**”

**“Memorial Brick” for placement in the TearDrop Garden are still available. Order forms may be found hanging on the wall in the Narthex.**

Praising God for the rain and sunshine to help our Garden Grow and for the wonderful turnout we had of members who planted our TearDrop Garden for **ALL TO ENJOY!**



**Prayer**, our desire for God indicates that God is already at work in us, calling us to him. Realizing this puts prayer in a new light. It is not just something we do; it also involves inviting God to work in us. God is, in fact, present when we pray. Whether we are speaking words or singing or simply being silent, this sense of our longing for God and the reality of his presence should be a kind of constant background to our prayer.

If you know you need to pray more, but keep finding yourself getting to the end of the day and finding you have not prayed, you should think about what is holding you back. Don't think of prayer as another thing you have to do, but as an opportunity to disengage yourself from our hectic daily schedules.

Are you afraid to invite God in? Our sinfulness in general can overwhelm us sometimes, but Jesus came to call all sinners. We also fear that God will ask us to give up things to which we are attached. God always leaves us free. He may, in fact, ask us to give up something we are attached to, but if so, he will gradually lead us to see it differently and be less attracted to it. If, like most of us, you have already tried to do everything your own way and made a mess of things, the idea that God really does know what is good for us.

How do you envision God? Do you see him as a harsh judge, this will get in the way of openness and trust. You might experiment with some images that are common, imagine yourself as clay in the hands of the potter or as a house you invite him to come dwell in, a good analogy in Scripture is the garden. We are dry, bramble-infested ground which God weeds and waters and softens so we can bring forth fruit.

Lock prayer into your daily routine. A short period of prayer first thing in the morning before you turn on your computer, cellphone or TV is an especially valuable practice. We need to bring Christ to the world, spend some time with

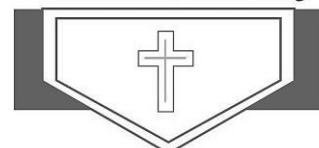
him first before you get caught up in your daily activities. It is OK to sip your morning tea or coffee as you start. Bring to God whatever is on your mind: things left over from yesterday, your emotions, your worries and fears, difficult situations you expect to encounter today, and try to let go of them. Offer him thanks for bringing you to the start of another day. Ask God to help you surrender to him, to let him dwell in you more deeply and live in him and for him more today than yesterday. Be sure to leave some quiet time. Say a prayer of thanksgiving and ask for his guidance and protection throughout the day.

If you are bothered by distractions, just return gently to the prayers and don't get upset at yourself for your poor concentration. Turn your worries into prayers for that situation. Don't pick at yourself or worry about whether you are doing it right. And don't get discouraged if you don't see quick results — either in the feelings you experience or in overcoming your faults. God can work in us at all sorts of levels that we are not aware of. Just be faithful to prayer, ask him to transform your heart, putting your desires in the right order so the compass needle of your soul points to him, the true north, and trust he will complete the good work he has begun in you.

*"That is why Jesus urges us to pray and 'not to lose heart.' We all go through times of tiredness and discouragement, especially when our prayers seem ineffective. But Jesus assures us: ... God promptly answers his children, even though this doesn't mean he will necessarily do it when and how we would like. Prayer does not work like a magic wand! It helps us keep faith in God, and to entrust ourselves to him even when we do not understand his will. In this, Jesus himself — who prayed constantly! — is our model."*

— Pope Francis, general audience, May 25, 2016

Altar Society



LUNCHEON

Friday, June 23<sup>rd</sup>

Plumsteadville Inn

All are welcome to join us at our

## JUNE 11, 2017 – THE SOLEMNITY OF THE MOST HOLY TRINITY



*“Pay your own way  
luncheon.”*

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

*Susan Ackerman, Lillian Appleman,  
Larry Baker, Patricia Baker, Nancy Beans, John & Loretta  
Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Patti Bucci, Libby Chapman,  
Dorothy Cegielski, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew  
Crance, Jim Crawford, Ernest D'Angelo, Chrissy Davis, Joy  
Davis, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin,  
Bernice Fees, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite,  
Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Claire Fratrick,  
Violet Freeh, Janet Galen, Patricia Gall, Kathi Gallagher,  
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,  
**Valerie Korbar**, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Sally  
Lindenmuth, Barbara Lavelle, Charles Lutcavage, Julia  
Maher, Loretta Malloy, Ray Malachowski, Jill Martindell,  
Adelaide McElderry, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol,  
Emma Michael, Joseph Moore, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine  
Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, James O'Hanlon, Gary Palmer,*

*Joseph and Mary Victoria Pepkowski, 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, Edward  
Wisner, 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**

## June 17<sup>TH</sup> & 18<sup>TH</sup> – FEAST of CORPUS CHRISTI

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday 5pm</b>	<b>Darlene Bittenmaster Cathy Leidtke Marianne McEvoy Marion Wolf</b>	<b>Marie Louzon</b>	<b>Luke Grindrod Mead Grindrod</b>	<b>Julia Costello Karen Parash</b>
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	<b>Jackie Litzenberger Bea Romaszewski Weez Roney Ron Watson</b>	<b>Melissa Johnson</b>	<b>Brigid Froman Danny Froman Samantha Froman</b>	<b>Amleto Pucci</b>
<b>Sunday 10:30am</b>	<b>Wendy DeGroot Phil Donahue Bruce Keyser Leona Russell</b>	<b>Ward VanHaute</b>	<b>Dakota Campbell Caius VanHaute Audrey VanHaute</b>	<b>Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak</b>