

**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 contact the parish office to register when you move into the parish. 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:** A Saturday Mass for the Sacrament of



Matrimony may be celebrated no later than 1pm. Couples planning marriage are to contact the parish office & schedule a meeting with our wedding coordinator no later than 6 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 approved by our Pastor.

**ANOINTING OF THE SICK:** Please call the rectory at anytime



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.***

**Mass Intentions for June 18 - 24, 2018**

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

**Monday, June 18**

**8:35am (chapel) Joey Walsh**

**Tuesday, June 19**

**8:35am (chapel) Theodore Scott, Jr.**

**Wednesday, June 20**

**8:35am (chapel) John Reidler**

**Thursday, June 21**

**8:35am (chapel) Marilyn Weber**

**Friday, June 22**

**8:35am (chapel) Betty Sturz**

**Saturday, June 23**

**5:00pm (church) Parishioners' Intentions**

**Sunday, June 24 – Baptismal Sunday**

**FEAST OF ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST**

**8:00am (church) SJB 275th Anniversary**

**10:30am (church) SJB 275th Anniversary**

**Meetings for the week of June 18 - 24, 2018**

**Thurs June 21: NG Garden Club, 7pm – Narthex Mtg Rm**

**Sat. June 23: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room & Chapel**

**Weekly Mass Collection**

**Sunday, June 10, 2018**

**\$5,159.00**

**via Parish Giving \$673.00**

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



**SJB Cleaning Team for the week of June 18th is Team # 5:**

***Marion Wolf, Janet Reidler,  
Fred Furmaniak, Joan Harrison***

***Your parish Thank You!***

**Today's Mass READINGS may be  
found in the *JourneySongs* Hymnal:**

**Section 959**



**Parish Office Summer Hours**

**Monday – Thursday: 8:30am – 5:30pm**

**Friday: 8:30am – 12pm**

## Gospel Reflections

### A Letter from

Our Pastor, Father Simi



Dear brothers and sisters,

*...and through it all the seed would  
sprout and grow, he knows not how.*

(Mark 4:27)

Today, our Lord teaches us to see with the eyes of faith: faith in Him. As His disciples, we are today taught how to see Him at work as King in His kingdom. Two parables teach us two main messages about Jesus and how He reigns in us who are citizens of His kingdom.

The first parable teaches us that how He makes us grow to maturity as individual members and as a kingdom will often be invisible to us yet very sure. St. Paul says this message this way in today's second reading: *for we walk by faith, not by sight* (2 Cor 5:7.) The mature plant is invisible to us when looking at the seed but it will surely come forth from it.

Our Lord Jesus, at the time of His preaching and public ministry was thought of by those who did not believe in Him as anything but a king.

Instead of being a Messiah king/soldier who commanded an army who had the might to overthrow the reigning government of Rome and reinstate the kingdom of Israel, zealots saw in Jesus an itinerant preacher who was too weak to rouse His fellow Jews to revolt.

Our Lord's way of establishing and growing His kingdom is way too slow and imperceptible to them, even for His own disciples. In fact, for His own disciples, the very idea of a king giving Himself up to be tortured, to suffer and to die and rise again was downright repugnant.

Seeds must fall into the ground and die in order to bear forth the fruit that the tree is. Yet this process of falling and dying and rising as a wholly different reality is totally unwelcome and counter-intuitive for us. It involves too much time and too much sacrifice and too much newness.

Most of all, it means that we are not in control. Falling and dying doesn't look like being in control at all. It looks more like giving up. It looks more like weakness. It looks more like defeat. Yet this is precisely what the King does.

The second parable points to Jesus own definitive power to become the tree that He has, as seed, fallen into the ground and died to bring forth.

The smallness of the mustard seed falling and dying and growing up so quickly and profusely into

mustard trees that grow wild and fast everywhere very powerfully speak of Him and His kingdom.

Our Lord is King. We are members of His Kingdom. He is at work and He will bring to fulfillment what He Himself has died to bring about.

As His disciples, we tend to lose patience and are discouraged only because we do not always see any growth taking place. We may look at the suffering and the dying and be discouraged and despair. The newness of the resurrection life is too good to be true for us.

Today He reminds us that we must not give in to our impatience and despair but rather to give ourselves up to Him, living for Him and dying for Him.

The Church is the Kingdom of Jesus still growing. We don't look very majestic like a cedar tree but more like a wild growing mustard shrub that many would consider as stubborn weeds that need to be uprooted and got rid of.

The Church is Christ's Kingdom that is still maturing. We are not in control of it for we are not the King. Our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the Seed that has fallen and died and rose is invisible to us but is sure present to us and growing forth in and from us.

So if we are feeling weak, vulnerable and defeated, we can only fix our gaze on Christ and trust Him and let Him be the King who is reigning still in us, the Tree who is growing still in us.

**Father Simi**

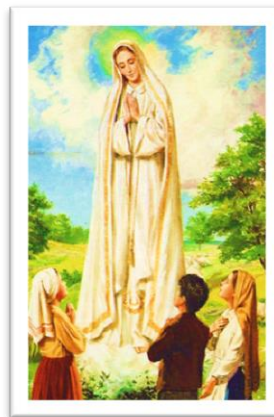
## FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

Bedminster, PA

### "A Quiet Country Retreat"

Offering Day & Overnight Retreats for Individuals &  
Small Groups

**Our Programs Are Open to All**



**Monday, 7pm**

Adoration & Prayers

**Wednesday, 9:30am**

Adoration & Prayers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12pm**

Adoration & Prayer for

Vocations

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10am**

Rosary, Confession Mass

& Lunch

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



## TEACH THE CHILDREN



Each week, a brief explanation of the following Sunday's Gospel reading will appear below. Together, we can teach your child to understand the Gospel. *Suggestion* - have them look up the Gospel reading below in your family Bible, then read it out loud to you. Along with the explanation below, discuss the Gospel with your child, focus on the section marked **Lesson**. Encourage them to pay special attention at Mass during the Liturgy of the Word & during Father's homily. Many times it is then that we hear God's word more clearly.

**Gospel for June 24<sup>th</sup>: Luke 1:57-66; 80**  
**"Feast of the Nativity of Saint John the Baptist"**

Zechariah, the father of John the Baptist, was a righteous and holy man. A priest who knew the laws and had most of Scripture memorized. Yet, he was still not prepared when the angel Gabriel appeared to him and announced that he and his wife, Elizabeth, would have a son, and that this son would be a prophet who would prepare the way for the coming of the Messiah." Zechariah, rather than being happy at what the angel Gabriel just told him, he responds with doubt, questioning "How can it be? I am old and my wife is old." Zechariah should have known that God can do anything, even give children to the barren. Even with all of that knowledge that was in Zechariah's head, he doubted what the angel told him, in that brief moment, he looked at his own part and must have thought the plan was dependent on him. Gabriel, upon hearing Zechariah's objection, replies "I am Gabriel, who stands in the presence of God; and I was sent to speak to you." The angel declares that Zechariah will be unable to speak until the child, John the Baptist, is born. Rather than blurt out why God could not accomplish His will, Zechariah probably should have taken a moment to contemplate what God was saying through the angel. Had he done that he would have given himself time to remember God's faithfulness. He would have benefitted from the formation he had been given in the Law and the Prophets. Instead of telling God why He could not accomplish His will, Zechariah might have remembered that God can always accomplish His will.

**Lesson:** Too often we fall into the same trap. We feel the tug of God's will in our lives. Instead of rejoicing that God would call us into his plans, we begin to rationalize. When we are confronted with a teaching we do not like, or when in prayer we feel God challenging us to deeper conversion on something, we need to learn from Zechariah's encounter and remember, God can accomplish His will through any means he chooses. We need to quiet our hearts, and ask God to help us more fully enter into His reality. Zechariah's story reminds us that God's plans are not dependent on us."



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

*Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading*

## The Catholic Classical Curriculum You Have A Choice

The Classical curriculum is a time proven method that nurtures student's intellectual and spiritual potential, inspiring them to want to learn. It teaches them logic, reason and critical thinking; showing them how not just what to think.

A Classical education develops students' analytical and critical thinking skills by teaching them how to use reason and think logically. This prepares children for higher-level learning, teaches them to become solutions-oriented problem-solvers, and develops independent thinkers who seek the truth; all through the lens of our Catholic Faith.

Does this time tested approach still work in today's education systems where standardized tests have taken over?

The answer is a resounding YES! Students who learn through this method have been shown to:

- Have higher SAT scores in reading, math and writing as compared to those from other public, independent and religious schools (1).

- Will learn to speak and write more effectively, more articulately and more persuasively.

- Will develop the skills, self-confidence and moral filter needed to navigate our increasingly complex society.

## Phone, Email, Visit...

We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions. Let us introduce you to The Academy as you seek the right school for your family.

**Mr. John Mundy, Headmaster**  
 610-847-5523

[jmundy@rasjb.org](mailto:jmundy@rasjb.org)

**Mr. Geoff Meyer, Director of Institutional Advancement**  
 610-960-7062

[gmeyer@rasjb.org](mailto:gmeyer@rasjb.org)

**Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director**  
 267-424-5762





## Religious Freedom Week observance around the World June 22-29



The U.S. Catholic Church's 2018 religious freedom observance begins June 22, the feast of two English martyrs who fought religious persecution -- Sts. John Fisher and St. Thomas More -- and ends June 29, the feast of two apostles martyred in Rome -- Sts. Peter and Paul.

"Serving Others in God's Love" is the theme of this year's Religious Freedom Week. U.S. Catholics are encouraged to pray and take action act in support of religious liberty at home and abroad.

*"Religious freedom allows the space for people of faith to serve others in God's love in ministries like education, adoption and foster care, health care, and migration and refugee services,"* said the chairman of the U.S. Conference of catholic Bishops' Committee for Religious Liberty, "We encourage people of faith to reflect on the importance of religious freedom so that we might have the space to carry out our mission of service and mercy," Archbishop Joseph E. Kurtz of Louisville, Kentucky, said in a statement. He also invited "everyone to pray for our brothers and sisters who face intense persecution in other parts of the world."

A USCCB news release on the observance, quotes Pope Francis from his 2015 visit to the United States. In remarks to President Barack Obama on Sept. 23, 2015:

Pope Francis said that religious freedom *"remains one of America's most precious possessions."* *"And, as my brothers, the United States bishops, have reminded us, all are called to be vigilant, precisely as good citizens, to preserve and defend that freedom from everything that would threaten or compromise it."*

# SAVE THE DATE

## 33<sup>rd</sup>



## Annual

## GOLF TOURNAMENT



**Friday, September 14, 2018**  
**Whitetail Golf Club**  
**2679 Klein Road, Bath PA 18014**

For more information,  
call Peg Glancey at 610-847-5217.



## The Nitty Gritty Garden Club

**Thank you to all who contributed to the  
SUCCESS of our  
Memorial Day weekend PLANT SALE.  
Your support helps us to maintain & expand  
our parish gardens.**

**CONGRATULATIONS to Martin who won our  
Mary Garden.**



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

Susan Ackerman, Lillian Appleman, Patricia Baker, Nancy Beans, Loretta Bodisch, Emmalee Bryan, Patti Bucci, Libby Chapman, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, Maria DeLuca-Lorenzo, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Marvin Eichlin, **Loretta Farrell**, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Herman Fleck, Claire Fratrik, Janet Galen, Kathi Gallagher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Michael Heuston, Sharon Horvath, Charles Houston, Martha Juchnowicz, Georgine Kocher, Valerie Korbar, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Charles Lutcavage, Loretta Malloy, Jill Martindell, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Harvey Mueller, Charlie Murphy, Emma Michael, Joseph Moore, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, James O'Hanlon, Gabrielle Otero, Jonathan Ott, Gary Palmer, Helen Pepkowski, Victoria Pepkowski, Nicholas Powell, Don Raman, Mike Ramos, Rachael Rice, Carol Reardon, Gregory Rickert, Joy & Teddy

Rodman, Sandy Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Lana Schell, Ronald Schultz, Sr., Frank & Joyce, Joe Shuman, Mary Jane Shuman, Baby Ella Stack, Shane Stroup, Nick Tscheschlog, Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas Toner, Betty Ventresca, Helen Wall, Diane Wesoski, Maryjane Whealton, Tamara Widmer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder, Liem Zbyszinski



Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle,  
Derek Brosius,  
Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland,  
Casey de Lauretis, Steehly de  
Lauretis, Liberty DeVenuto,  
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.

**THANK YOU FOR SERVING & PROTECTING  
OUR FREEDOMS.**

### Ministry Schedule for June 23rd & 24th The Feast of the Nativity of St. John the Baptist

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>SATURDAY 5PM</b>	Jim Black Joan Black Renee Moyer Dave Slifer	Anne Slifer	Brigid Froman Danny Froman Emily Saab	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
<b>SUNDAY 8AM</b>	Nancy Kaczinski Marianne McEvoy Jim McHugh Donna Nice	Kathy Fetter	Joseph Fetter Tommy Loughran Natalie Nice	Kate Irvine Karen Parash
<b>SUNDAY 10:30AM</b>	Gerri Belsito Phil Donahue Lynn Gammello Dolly Kovacs	Laura Russell	Dakota Campbell Luke Luna Olivia Luna	Choir Susan Middleton Nio Logaivau