

OCTOBER 25, 2015 – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

**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 4:15 - 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.

**ANOIDTING 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 Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2015**

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

**Monday, Oct. 26**

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

**Tuesday, Oct. 27**

8:35am (chapel) Joe Litzenberger (Wife Jackie)

**Wednesday, Oct. 28**

*Rosary prayed after Mass*

8:35am (chapel) The Deceased Member of the DiNapoli Family  
(The Hay Family)

**Thursday, Oct. 29**

8:35am (chapel) Fran Torgerson (Joe & Dorothy Cegielski)

**Friday, Oct. 30**

9:00am (Church) Mary Dougherty (Joan Beebe)

**Saturday, Oct. 31**

5:00pm (church) Parishioners' Intentions

**Sunday, Nov. 1**

8:00am (church) Fr. Robert E. Steinmas, OSA

(Mike & Phyllis Schmerbeck)

10:30am (church) Dominic Taccarome (Loving Family)

***The Altar flowers have been donated in memory of Marie Vogan and Mary Dougherty (Joan Beebe)***

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**Meetings for the week of Oct. 26 – Nov. 1, 2015**

**Fri. Oct. 30:** Discovering Christ (Pilot), 6:30pm – Parish Hall

**Sat. Oct. 31:** Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

**Sun. Nov. 1:** Teen RCIA, 11:45am – Marian Room

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**The Church Cleaning Team for the week of**

**October 26th is Team # 2:**

Joyce Melchior, Peg Trouts, Jean Wurster,  
Terri DeVenuto

***Your parish thanks you!***



**Mass Collection**

**29th Sunday Ordinary Time**

**October 18, 2015**

**\$6,307.00**

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

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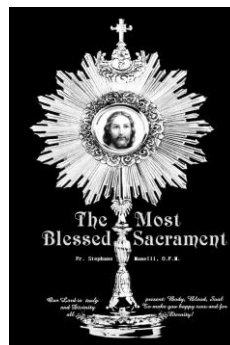
***Our Parish 24-Hour Monthly Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament***

***1<sup>st</sup> Friday of the month.***

*Next date is*

***Friday Nov. 6<sup>th</sup>***

***following the 9am Mass***



**We are in need of an "ADORER"  
for the 10pm hour.**

**If you can visit with Our Lord at  
this time please call the parish  
office.**

*Gospel Reflections*  
*A Letter from Our Pastor,*  
*Father Simi*



*Dear Brothers and Sisters,*

**"Master, I want to see."  
(Mark 10:51)**

Our Holy Father, Pope Francis, together with delegate bishops, priests and laity have ended their synod on the family. Prayerfully, they have been asking our Lord the ability to see; to see how He wants us to minister with Him and for Him to human brokenness experienced within families.

This process of seeing is not easy at all. In fact, we have been learning from the gospel of Mark these last few Sundays that without God's help, it is impossible. It is impossible on our own to see the way God sees. To acquire God's vision is harder than a man born blind finding vision.

We have also seen how Jesus is eager to give us that vision, that penetrating gaze into spiritual realities that God Himself possesses. Yet we observe from these gospel stories how the gift of vision to His disciples was not received so quickly. It was a journey.

God's gaze into our human fallenness penetrates every fiber of our individual and collective being. He sees all. He sees the human soul that is void of love. He sees blind souls who have lost their way to Him, the source of love.

His vision of our condition has moved Him to even greater love. He is going to send His Son to open our eyes again that we may see in Jesus the remedy of our loveless souls. Jesus is going to show us and empower us to love again.

How? By the pouring out of His self again to us in His suffering, death and resurrection. This is how He is going to fill our loveless souls. He is going to pour Himself out into our suffering, dying souls, that with that same self-sacrificing love, He may raise us.

This is why Mark sets up two stories of the healing of the blind as book ends to Jesus teaching on His suffering, death and resurrection (Mark 8:22-27 and 10: 46-52). Mark is aware how we so struggle with this aspect of our faith; with the presence of suffering and death in God's strategy for our salvation.

Peter, the Zebedee brothers and the rest of disciples didn't see Jesus' suffering and death as an act of love that could save all of humanity. It seems from today's gospel that Bartimaeus, the blind man, saw this. He is the only who addresses Jesus as the Son of

David, assigning to Jesus the hope filled title of the Jewish Messiah.

Mark teaches us that Bartimaeus received the sight of faith: Jesus' own acknowledgement of his faith, ("Go your way, your faith has saved you.") and Bartimaeus response, (Immediately he received his sight and followed Jesus on the way.)

So what can we learn from this? First, to acknowledge our blindness. We know we do not fully see. Secondly, to ask for vision from Him who sees all things. Thirdly, to journey with Jesus who will slowly give us this gift of seeing.

Like the disciples, we will slowly come to see that no matter how broken we are as human beings, as families, no matter how loveless we have become to one another, no matter how much we may be suffering from all that lovelessness, we will see Jesus pouring out Himself into our suffering, into our lovelessness, into our death, overcoming us with His eternal love, and slowly raising us up again to a love-filled life.

Like Bartimaeus, let us follow Jesus on His way to the cross, the tree of love incarnate. Let us patiently and with perseverance follow Jesus to His altar every Sunday. Let us especially cling to Him when our blindness takes over and our love fades.

Let us persevere in following Jesus when we experience the pain inflicted on us by those who no longer see us as a loved one, that with Jesus, we can still enter willingly into the passion of their rejection and betrayal and pray, "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

*Fr. Simi.*

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**CALLED BY NAME WEEKEND I: OCTOBER 25TH**

A program to promote vocations to the priesthood will begin in our parish next weekend. Please pray for vocations.

God of gracious love, You gathered us first at the waters of baptism, and you lead us through life with faithfulness.

Raise up from among our parish family, leaders to serve your people as Priests.

To those whom You call, give grace and courage to discern how they may best serve you. To all of us, give us good hearts so we might encourage them along the way.

We ask this through Jesus Christ, and with your Holy Spirit, now and forever. Amen.



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA  
**CALLED BY NAME**  
A FUTURE FULL OF HOPE

## Parish Religious Education Program



*"Your faith has made you well."* Mark 10:52

Have you ever encountered a once in a life-time opportunity you knew you could not pass up? Such a moment came for a blind and destitute man, named Bartimaeus. He was determined to get near the one person who could meet his need. He knew who Jesus was and had heard of his fame for healing, but until now had no means of making contact with the Son of David, a clear reference and title for the Messiah. It took a lot of "guts" and persistence for Bartimaeus to get the attention of Jesus over the din of a noisy throng who crowded around Jesus as he made his way out of town. Why was the crowd annoyed with the blind man's persistent shouts? He was disturbing their peace and interrupting Jesus' discourse. It was common for a rabbi to teach as he walked with others. Jesus was on his way to celebrate the Passover in Jerusalem and a band of pilgrims followed him. When the crowd tried to silence the blind man he overpowered them with his emotional outburst and thus caught the attention of Jesus. This incident reveals something important about how God interacts with us. The blind man was determined to get Jesus' attention and he was persistent in the face of opposition. Jesus could have ignored or rebuffed him because he was disturbing his talk and his audience. Jesus showed that acting was more important than talking. This man was in desperate need and Jesus was ready, not only to empathize with his suffering, but to relieve it as well. A great speaker can command attention and respect, but a man or woman with a helping hand and a big heart is loved more. Jesus commends Bartimaeus for recognizing who he is with the eyes of faith and grants him physical sight as well. Do you recognize your need for God's healing grace and do you seek Jesus out, like Bartimaeus, with persistent faith and trust in his goodness and mercy?

**Let us pray...**"Lord, may I never fail to recognize my need for your grace. Help me to take advantage of the opportunities you give me to seek your presence daily and to listen attentively to your word." Amen



## The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

4040 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942  
Ph: 610-847-5523 [www.sjbottsville.org](http://www.sjbottsville.org)

### Visit our website for the latest news & upcoming events

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

THE REGINA ACADEMY AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

**OPEN HOUSE**



**Sunday, November 15th • 12:00-2:00pm**

*Come experience the following:*

- Classical Catholic Liberal Arts Education Model
- Faith Based Values
- Un-Common Core Curriculum
- Happy Children
- 24+% Enrollment in the last 3 years
- Authentically Catholic Environment

For more information please contact:  
Mr. Geoff Meyer - Director of Institutional Advancement  
[geoffmeyer@sjbottsville.org](mailto:geoffmeyer@sjbottsville.org) • 610-847-5521

[www.sjbottsville.org](http://www.sjbottsville.org)

*Knowing. Loving. Growing. Leading.*

## Salt Life Youth Ministry Corner



### "Why should I register my teen for youth group?"

Without filling out the registration packet, your teen cannot attend any Salt Life event. The packet contains Youth Ministry **Registration & Consent forms** provided to us by the Archdiocese. Until you complete & file these forms with our parish office, we are not permitted to email you meeting information, event calendar and flyers. All our parish ministries are fully compliant with the procedures outline by the Archdiocese.

### Registration is NOT a commitment to attend all events.

I understand how busy teens are -- I was one of those extremely busy teens not that long ago...playing sports every season, volunteering, musical practices, choir performances...on and on. All I ask is to update me when you plan to attend or if you have to cancel. Fill out a form in the Narthex and return to the Salt Life box (Narthex) or the Parish Office.

*Emily Litzenberger, Youth Minister*



**FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER** Bedminster, PA

Join us in Praying for Vocations & World Peace

**Weekly Prayers**  
**Every Monday**

**7pm in Our Lady's Chapel:**

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

**Every Wednesday**

**9:30am in Our Lady's**

**Chapel:**

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

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

**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**



**Bed & Breakfast with the Saints**

**October 30-31**

If the increasing hostility toward Christians in the U.S. is getting you down, let an evening with the saints restore your perspective. This *overnight retreat with Susan Brinkmann, OCDS*, traces the lives and culture of more than 24 saints and proves that regardless of how difficult the times, with God's grace, we can both survive and flourish!

Held at **Fatima House in Bedminster, PA**, the retreat begins at 7:00pm Oct. 30<sup>th</sup> and ends at 11:00am Oct. 31<sup>st</sup>.

Cost is \$85 per person and includes two conferences, accommodations and breakfast.

**Register and pay online by visiting:**

**[www.freeandfaithful.com](http://www.freeandfaithful.com) or call 215-983-9701**

**The MSC Center Valley**  
**6<sup>th</sup> Semi-Annual Raffle**



The money we raise helps to support the operation of the SACRED HEART VILLA, a retirement home for American MSC priests and brothers.

Raffle tickets are available for purchase at the parish office.

Some parishioners will receive raffle tickets in the mail. The raffle tickets can be purchased for a \$5.00 donation.

A winning ticket is drawn every day during the month of November.

Thank you to all for your support.



It's also time to change your smoke alarm batteries!

"Following Jesus is not easy,  
but it's not difficult either,  
because on the path of love  
the Lord does things in such a  
way that we can go forward;  
it is the Lord himself who  
opens up our heart".

- Pope Francis, June 17, 2013

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## OCTOBER 25, 2015 – THIRTIETH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME



**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, **Patricia Baker**, 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., Patricia Fite, Sarah Fleck, Nancy Fratrik, Mary Gallo, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Susan Gross, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Steve Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Charles Houston, Anna Jesiolowski, Martha Juchnowicz, Donald B Knight, Georgine Kocher, Anthony Kondracki, Deanna Kovner, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Charles Lutcavage, Julia Maher, Loretta Malloy, Adelaide McElderry, Bridget Julia McHugh, Michelle McNevin, Anne McNichol, Emma Michael, Florence Middleton, Joseph Moore, Jennie Moreno, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Wanda Muth, **Helene Nastro**, Frances Nowicki, James O'Hanlon, Gary Palmer, Helen Patzek-

Charlton, 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, **Barbara Sabbath**, Zina Sauerwine, Lana Schell, Andrew & Florence Schroker, Mario Sciacca, Joe 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 freedom.*



### MINISTRY SCHEDULE

October 31st & Nov. 1st, 2015 – All Saint's Day  
November 2, 2105 All Soul's Day

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday, 5:00pm</b> <b>October 31<sup>st</sup></b> <b>Solemnity of All Saints</b>	Gerri Belsito Joanne DaCunha Cathy Leidtke Marion Wolf	Marie Louzon	Kiera Maxwell Shea Maxwell Emily Vinal	Amleto Pucci Karen Parash
<b>Sunday, 8:00am</b> <b>Nov. 1<sup>st</sup></b> <b>All Saints Day</b>	Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh Hary Reckner Bea Romaszewski	Jeanne Keller	Angelina Day Liam Riexenger Maggie McArdle	Ordinary Time
<b>Sunday, 10:30am</b> <b>Nov. 1st</b> <b>All Saints Day</b>	Wendy DeGroot Phil Donahue Dolly Kovacs Jackie Litzenberger	Laura Fleck	Nicole DeCicco Anthony Fleck Audrey Giovino	Susam Middleton Elaine Jocelyn
<b>Monday, 9am</b> <b>Nov. 2nd</b> <b>Old St. John's Church</b>	Joan Black Jim Black			Marion Wolf Elaine Jocelyn