

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Selvaraj Lucas, M.S.C.

Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.

Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese

Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca

Parish Office Manager: Donna Sciacca

Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster: Donna Sciacca

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / Fri: 9am

Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm

CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm
or by appointment.

Register: Please contact the parish office to register when you move into our 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. 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 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.**

Weekly Mass Schedule

ALL PUBLIC MASSES SUSPENDED

OUR CHURCH IS OPEN FOR
YOU TO PRAY IN FRONT OF THE TABERNACLE
Weekdays: 8am – 10am
Sundays: 8am – 12noon

Our Collection Basket is at the entrance to the center aisle for you to leave your weekly Mass envelopes or cash offerings.

Confession is by appt. only, and will be held in the main church please call 610-847-5521.

Mass Intentions for April 6 - 12, 2020

HOLY WEEK

Monday: John Zdanowicz (*Joan Beebe*)

Tuesday: Jim Kreschellek (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)

Spy Wednesday: *Souls in Purgatory (Maxine Vogan)*

Holy Thursday

Good Friday

Holy Saturday

Easter Sunday

All above for our Parishioners' Intentions

Meetings this Week

ALL EVENTS & MEETINGS CANCELLED

Weekly Mass Collection for March 29, 2020

Envelopes: \$ 2,297.13

Parish Giving: \$ 2,202.20

Thank you for your generosity!

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

THE PARISH OFFICE is closed. If you are in need of service, please call 610-847-5521

THE LORDS PANTRY IS OPEN NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS.

NO in-pantry shopping.

Pre-bagged items available for curbside pick-up.

Palm Sunday a Victory of Humility

After driving out demons, healing the sick, and raising the dead, it was time for the King of Kings to enter the Holy City. But to do so, he rode not on the back of a warhorse, but a donkey. His companions accompanied him brandishing not swords, but palm branches. The monument to his victory, erected a week later, was not an arch, but a crucifix.

His earthly beginning was frightfully humble. And his earthly end would be no different. The wood of the manger prefigured the wood of the cross.

From beginning to end, the details are humiliating. No room in the inn. Born amidst the stench of a stable. Hunted by Herod's henchmen. Growing up in a far-flung province of the Roman Empire—Galilee, the land where the country accent is so thick, you can cut it with a knife. How is it that the high priest's servant-girl knew Peter was a disciple of Jesus? His hillbilly accent gave him away (Matthew 26:73). Jesus' disciples were not cultured, learned men of ability. They were drawn from the low-life of a backwater region.

HUMILITY & HUMILIATION When one of his closest companions offered to betray him, he did not require millions. Jesus' worth was reckoned to be no more than the Old Testament "book value" for a slave—thirty pieces of silver (Ex 21:32). When he was finally handed over to the Romans, he was not given the punishment meted out to Roman citizens. Beheading was the quick, dignified way to execute someone of any standing. Instead Jesus was given punishments reserved only for slaves and rebellious members of subjugated peoples – flagellation and crucifixion. These two penalties were not just about the pain, but about the humiliation. In first century Judea, men and women typically covered themselves from head to toe, even in the scorching heat. A crucified man was stripped naked and put on display for all to see.

But this is not primarily a story of violence and humiliation. The events of Holy Week are much more about love and humility.

HUMILITY – HE HUMBLED HIMSELF That is why on Passion Sunday we read the powerful words of Paul's letter from the Philippians (2:6-11). Though the Divine Word was God, dwelling in the serene heights of heavenly glory, he freely plunged to the depths of human misery, joining himself to our frail nature, entering into our turbulent world. As if this act of humility were not enough, he further humbled himself, accepting the status of a slave. His act of stooping down to wash the feet of his disciples (Jn

13) was a parable of his whole human existence, for this act was regarded as so undignified that not even Israelite slaves could be compelled to do it. But that's just it. Jesus was not compelled to do it. He willingly lowered himself in his birth, in his ministry, in his death. No one took his life from him. He freely laid down his own life (Jn 10:18). Others did not have the chance to humble him; he humbled himself.

PRIDE, THE ORIGINAL SIN It had to be so. The Second Adam had to undo the damage caused by the first. What was the sin of our first parents? They disobeyed because they wanted to know what God knew, to be like God, to exalt themselves over God (Gen 3). They were bitten by the Serpent, and injected with the deadly venom of Pride. The antidote, the anti-venom could only be humility.

The foot-washing, donkey-riding New Adam would crush the head of the deadly serpent by means of loving, humble obedience.

The first-born of many brothers lowered himself to the dust from which the First Adam has been made—indeed humility comes from the word "humus." But God responded to his humility by exalting him far above Caesars, kings, and even Hollywood stars. And he invites us to share his glory with him. But first we must walk on his road to glory, the royal road of the cross.



An immediate concern this pandemic has brought to our parish doors is the sudden loss of our regular means of income. This income which sustains our parish comes from one source, our Sunday Mass collections.

During a time when we are forced to stay at home, would you please consider making your weekly offering to our parish online through **Parish Giving**. Funds are electronically deposited from your checking, debit, or credit card account. No binding contract. You may adjust the amount you contribute at any time. **It is simple, convenient, and most of all secure.** A link to this program is on our parish website, www.stjohnsottsville.org Click on the tab and follow the screen prompts. **It's that easy!**

We are humbled by your generosity, and thank you for your ongoing support to St. John's.



CELEBRATING HOLY WEEK at HOME

Since the early days of Christianity, the week beginning with Palm Sunday and ending at sundown on Easter has been a sacred time because it commemorates the passion, death and resurrection of Jesus Christ.

PALM SUNDAY: View a live streaming Mass, and read the Gospel of Matthew 26:14-27; 66 or 27:11-54

Put a small statue of Jesus in the center of your dinner table.

- Use palm branches if you have them or any long leafy branches and have your own triumphal procession to the dinner table. Over dinner, talk about how Jesus is the center of our lives and our faith. How do we feel when we make Jesus the center of our lives?

Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday

- Clean the house: Think of spring housekeeping as a prayerful preparation for Easter in the same way that Jewish families clean in preparation for Passover.

- Buy a lily: The white flower heralds the resurrection of Jesus. Let your children pick out one for your family and one for someone who needs to hear “good news.”

- Color eggs: Decorated eggs are a symbol of new life that comes with the Resurrection. Make it more meaningful by helping your children write “Christ is Risen,” “Alleluia” or “Jesus loves us” on the eggs in crayon before coloring them.

HOLY THURSDAY: View a live streaming Mass

Read the Gospel of John 13:1 - 15

This day recalls the Last Supper when Jesus washed the feet of his disciples. It reminds us that we are called to serve one another.

- Set up a bind with warm water and wash one another feet.

- Share a meal as a family and ask discuss the reading on the Last Supper.

- The Eucharist is the central sacrament in our Catholic faith. Talk about our Catholic belief that we receive the real presence of the risen Jesus in holy Communion. How does this encounter with Jesus change us?

GOOD FRIDAY: View a live streaming 3pm service.

Read John 18:1 - 19:42

This day commemorates the crucifixion, death and burial of Jesus. It is the most solemn and sorrowful day of the Church calendar.

- Set aside some prayerful family time between 12noon and 3pm conclude with a “Veneration of the Cross” and with pray the Divine Mercy Chaplet at 3pm.

- Listen on YouTube to the, “Were Your There When They Crucified My Lord?” <https://youtu.be/MPmGcrdHQ8>

HOLY SATURDAY

This day commemorates the time of darkness and waiting when Jesus was in the tomb. It is also a day for final preparations before Easter.

- As a family decorate your home for the Easter Vigil with candles and Easter Lily plants. Yellow & White are the colors for this day.

On Holy Saturday, the Easter Vigil begins at sundown with a fire. Gather the family around a bonfire in the backyard, talk about how fire represents that Jesus is the light of the world. He brings light (everlasting life) to the darkness (sin & death) and new life to a sleeping world.

What are some other symbols of resurrection?

EASTER SUNDAY

VIEW A LIVE-STREAMED MASS as a FAMILY

JESUS CHRIST HAS RISEN! ALLELUIA! ALLELUIA!

Fully participate in the televised Mass as if you were in church. Singing the Gloria and Alleluias, partake in the renewal of baptismal vows, (keep a bottle on Holy water on hand) to be used to sprinkle one another. Be sure you know how to pray a Spiritual Communion, so you may share in the joy of receiving the Eucharist...the Body & Blood of our risen Christ.

Archdiocese COVID-19 Directives, the following Sacraments have been postponed.

Sacrament of Confirmation – currently awaiting a new date from the Bishops office.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion a new date will be selected for a time convenient to all once we are back to a normal Mass schedule.

It is imperative your child continues with their Sacrament preparation work. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me, prep@stjohnsottsville.org

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Bedminster, PA

“A Quiet Country Retreat”

Offering Day & Overnight Retreats for Individuals

Monday, 7pm Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday, 9:30am Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday, 12pm Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

1st Saturday, 10am Rosary, Confession, Mass, & Lunch





The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist is now accepting **Registrations for the 2020/2021 School Year.**

\$1500 transfer grants are available for students transferring from another school.

Why register your child for our school?

Here are just some of the wonderful benefits:

- ~ Joy Filled Authentic Catholic Community
- ~ **Classical** (not Common Core) Catholic Curriculum
- ~ Protective and Nurturing Environment that allows *Children to Become Who God Intended Them to Be*
- ~ Weekly Mass and Adoration
- ~ Full Day Pre K and Kindergarten
- ~ Transfer Grants Available
- ~ Busing from All of the Local School Districts

To register your child now, or for more information, visit our website [ADMISSIONS PAGE](#).

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School
tkoerber@rasjb.org

Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director
amattle@rasjb.org / 267-424-5762

www.rasjb.org

VATICAN ISSUES DECREE FOR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES WITH PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

VATICAN CITY — While conferences and meetings can be postponed for months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter cannot, with the exception of the chrism Mass, said the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

"By the mandate of the supreme pontiff for the year 2020 only," the congregation issued guidelines March 20 for celebrating the Triduum and Easter liturgies without the presence of the faithful.

"Easter is at the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The **Easter triduum** is celebrated over the arc of three days, which is preceded by Lent and crowned by

Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time," said the "Decree in the Time of COVID-19."

The decree was signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, and by Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary.

Because the chrism Mass is not formally part of the Triduum, they said, a bishop can decide to postpone its celebration. Usually the Mass is celebrated in the Holy Week and includes a gathering of all the priests of the diocese to renew their priestly promises. During the Mass, the oils — the chrism — used in the sacraments are blessed by bishop and distributed to the priests to take to their parishes.

Where public Masses have been canceled, the decree said, the bishops, in agreement with their bishops' conference, should ensure that the Holy Week liturgies are celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches. The faithful should be advised of the times for the celebrations, so that they can pray at home at the same time.

"Live — not recorded — televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful," the decree said.

On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper should be celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches even without the faithful present, it said. "The faculty to celebrate this Mass in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests" this year. "The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted" when there are no faithful present, it said. The traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the Mass also is omitted, and the Eucharist is placed directly in the tabernacle.

If there is any way to do so, the decree said, the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion should be celebrated and, among the formal prayers of petition, there should be "a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed."

For the celebration of the Easter Vigil without the faithful present, it said, the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, but the Easter candle is still lit and the "Exsultet" Easter proclamation is sung or recited.

Ministry Schedule for: April 11th & 12^h – THE RESURRECTION OF THE LORD

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Holy Saturday 8pm	Per the Archdiocese of Philadelphia ALL PUBLIC MASSES HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE			
Easter Sunday Sunday 8am				
Easter Sunday Sunday 10:30am				



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

New 3-Month Cycle. Currently accepting names for our March 1st – June 1st prayer list. To **RENEW** a name, or **To ADD** a new name to our prayer list, **please call the parish office.**

OUR SICK: Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Maddie Gardner, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, MaryAnn Hauber, Valerie Korbar, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Maria Middleton, Nancy Moreno, James O’Hanlon, Steve Salva, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall.

PRAY FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

Our Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Technicians, EMT’s, First Responders, Care Givers, the isolated sick and their families.

OUR TROOPS: Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey DeLauretis, David Fisher, 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, Steven Salva, Kate Salva, Jack Salva, Ann Salva.