

### 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 - Fri: 8:35am

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.**

### **Mass Intentions for the Week of August 17 - 23, 2020 Daily Mass 8:35am in the Main Church**

**Monday:** Tom High (*Peg Glancey*)

**Tuesday:** Ron Maisenhalter (*Betty White*)

**Wednesday:** Intentions of Judielynn Protentis (*Big Sister*)

**Thursday:** Patrick Curry (*Mary Kosmin & Family*)

**Friday:** Peggy Paccaglini (*Daniel Tomei*)

**Saturday, 5pm:** Edward Foley (*Peg Kenna*)

**Sunday: 8am:** George Demos (*Frank & Linda Dellmyer*)

**10:30am:** Parishioners' Intentions

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### **Parish Office Summer Hours**

Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm / Friday 9am – 1pm

**No Walk-Ins – All services provided but  
please call ahead for an appt. 610-847-5521**

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### **Solemnity of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

SATURDAY, AUGUST 15, 2020



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### **Mass Collection for Sunday, August 9, 2020**

**Collection Baskets: \$4,319.00**

**Parish Giving: \$2,145.30**

*Thank you for your continued support and  
generosity!*

## God's Love Is For Everybody

Gospel of Matthew 15: 21-28

In today's "politically correct" conscious world, the readings for today might be classified as "exclusive" versus "inclusive."

The Jews always considered themselves as special in the eyes of God and rightly so, because it was through them that Jesus came to be. Our religious faith, history and traditions are based on what the Jews gave us. However, they also considered God as their own to the exclusion of everyone else. This was not God's or Jesus' intention. The ultimate objective of God was "that all might be One" through Jesus Christ. (John 17:21)

In the First Reading, the Prophet Isaiah, is preaching to the returned Babylonian Exiles who brought with them many foreigners — friends, relatives and slaves. Tensions developed between these newcomers and those who had never left Israel. The prophet is telling everyone that God accepts all those who are willing to follow God's laws with sincerity and purity of heart. Together they may enter the temple — "His house of prayer."

In the Second Reading, St. Paul's is frustrated with the Jews for not accepting Jesus Christ as their Lord and Messiah. He tells us that their rejection of Christ resulted in their loss but our (Gentiles) gain of salvation; but when they do come to accept Christ (as is ultimately predicted), it will be for the glory of all mankind.

And then in Matthew's Gospel, This passage has some strange language in it, especially from Jesus. Our society today has some equally strange (and derogatory) names for people of other races or ethnic origins, all of which are wrong. However, in Jesus' time, calling gentiles "dogs" was part of their "exclusive" cultural pride. Jesus tells the Canaanite woman that His mission is "only to the lost sheep of Israel." If Jesus were only a Jew this would have been enough and the encounter would have ended there. But Jesus was God and the love of God knows no cultural or ethnic limits. He sees into the heart of this foreign woman and, in spite of "His mission," He grants her request because her faith was stronger than both cultures.

We should take courage from these readings because they tell us that God wants all mankind to be happy with Him in heaven at the end of time. There are no limits to race, creed or ethnic origin, as God tell us in the above passage from Isaiah, "All those who keep the Sabbath and hold to my covenant, I will bring them to my holy mountain, heaven." Just something to think about during your prayer time this week!

## "HALLOW" the #1 Catholic APP!

The Catholic meditation app **Hallow**, started in 2018 with a focus on young adults now...has Parents, Grandparents, just about any age group who uses it is hooked.

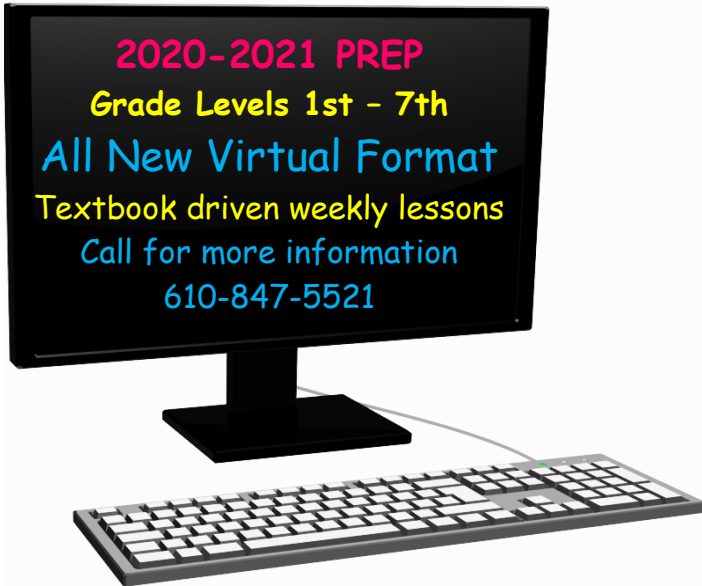
**Hallow's** creation is integrated with CEO & Co-Founder Alex Jones' own faith journey. His family raised him Catholic, but he strayed from the faith in high school and college where he went through a relatively dark time in life. After he graduated from college, he wanted to figure out what he believed in. One thing that had always fascinated him was meditation. He noticed that whenever he meditated, his mind would be pulled to something spiritual. So Alex asked priests, nuns and others in religious life, *is there a specific connection between meditation and faith?* They told him that indeed there was a connection: **It was called prayer.**

A priest friend encouraged him to listen more during prayer, and he began to study the Catholic faith more and he tried "**Lectio Divina**," a meditative reflection on the Scriptures. Alex said this process actually led him to tears and eventually brought him back to his faith. It was a beautiful combination of this deep sense of peace and love that calms our head space.

Jones recalled meditating on the **Lord's Prayer** and the word that stuck out to him was "**hallow**" from the beginning of the prayer: "*Our Father who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name.*" He knew what hallow meant, to make holy or sacred, but he didn't know how it pertained to his life. He pondered if he should be helping others grow in holiness. **And that's how the Hallow app came to be. "It's very important to us that everything on the app is 100% authentically Catholic and in line with church teachings."** The app's developers worked with priests, bishops and theologians to ensure they are conveying Catholic teachings correctly.

The impact of COVID-19 on **Hallow's** popularity has been huge. During the pandemic it has provided us with an opportunity to work on our spiritual lives from home. The app has a "**Family**" feature that allows users to connect with family and friends and share prayers, reflections and prayer intentions with them even while being physically separated. It also has a feature called the "**Daily Minute Prayer Challenge**." "**The hardest part about praying is just doing it.**" You can set goals on the app. You can add members of your family and friends to the app to hold yourself accountable. You can set daily reminders."

Unlike other religious apps that have users glued to their screen to read the Bible, **Hallow** allows its users to press "play," close their eyes and listen to audio of a prayer.



Registration forms available to download.  
[www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org)

### SHARE JESUS WITH YOUR CHILD



If you have a child  
entering  
the 1st grade in  
September,  
or if you are  
new in our parish and  
have a child in grades  
1 - 7 please call the  
parish office to register them in our Parish  
Religious Education Program.

Many of our PREP families are experiencing  
financial difficulty at this time.

If you would like to make a donation toward  
the cost of materials for their education,  
please send a check to the parish office,  
payable to: St. John the Baptist PREP

**Thank You for your donation!**



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

*Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading*

**Register for our 2020/2021 School Year  
Limited Spots Available  
Full Time & In Person – September 1st**

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

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The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

- Joy-Filled Authentic Catholic Community
- Catholic Classical Curriculum
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- Schools Starts Full Time & In Person September 1st!
- Limited Spots Available.

Contact us today:  
(267) 424-5762  
[www.RASJB.org](http://www.RASJB.org)

**CALL TO REGISTER TODAY 267-424-5762**

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School  
Mrs. Jackie Lenox, Asst. Head of School  
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director  
[www.rasjb.org](http://www.rasjb.org)

**FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Bedminster, PA  
“A Quiet Country Retreat”**

**Offering Day & Overnight Retreats  
for Small Groups & Individuals**



**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**





## 35<sup>th</sup> ANNUAL GOLF TOURNAMENT CANCELLED

### Announcement from the MSC Golf Committee:

Due to the inability to *guarantee* a risk-free environment during this pandemic, even with following all the guidelines, we were left with no choice but to cancel our annual golf tournament fundraiser this year.

This is a very important event for our retired MSC Priests and Brothers, who rely upon the support from the monies raised during this annual fundraiser.

**If you are able to make a donation for the continued support of our retired priests & brothers, it would be greatly appreciated.**

Checks should be made payable & mailed to:

**MSC GOLF BENEFIT**  
**330 Station Avenue**  
**Center Valley, PA 18034**

*With much gratitude and appreciation!*

*~ The MSC GOLF COMMITTEE*

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## POSTPONED

### Eucharistic Congress

Friday and Saturday, October 9 & 10, 2020  
Cathedral Basilica of Saints Peter and Paul and Shrine of Saint Katharine Drexel

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### PARISH LIFE - GREEN PHASE

**Visit our parish website - to view the most recent video update from Rev. Dennis Gill, Dir. of the Diocese Office for Divine.**

Whether you are attending Mass or going about your daily activities, the following precautions are recommended - Face coverings, social distancing, frequent washing of hands, or the frequent use of hand sanitizer when soap & water are not available, most importantly don't touch your face.

Our parish continues to employ the services of a professional company who comes in weekly to sanitize all surfaces inside our church. To assure it remains free of contaminants until the doors are open for Confession just prior to our Saturday vigil Mass, no gatherings are permitted inside our church from noon on Friday thru Saturday at 4pm.

## ARE CATHOLIC FLAME WARS EVANGELIZING ONLINE? BISHOP BARRON SAYS 'NO'

Bishop Robert Barron, an auxiliary bishop of Los Angeles, issued a *"pastoral cry of the heart"* to encourage Catholics to stop tearing each other apart online and instead provide well structured and charitable arguments. *"I understand that people are passionate, especially about religious matters, but when it comes to this commentary we always must keep truth and love in the forefront,"* he said.

In an article Barron had written, which he said drew unhealthy criticism from mobs of Catholics who responded not with arguments, but with vicious insults. For four days, the bishop had to assign co-workers to assess and remove disturbing comments from his different social media pages, he said.

*"In the wake of my article, armies of commenters, encouraged by certain internet provocateurs, inundated my Twitter and all my social media sites with wave upon wave of the most hateful, vituperative, venomous words that you can imagine."* In the article, **"Why 'what are the bishops doing about it?' is the wrong question,"** Barron noted Catholics had been calling for a greater contribution from the bishops against racial injustices, including the death of George Floyd. He said bishops are lobbying politicians, encouraging legislative changes, and calling on community leaders. However, he said there must be footwork done by the laity as well.

In his video, Barron said that online mob comments and abusive reviews do not help promote change but are, instead, anti-evangelical. If non-Catholics who are curious about the faith were to observe such behavior, he said, they would be repelled by the insidious comments of Catholics toward their pastors. Catholics should be examples of charity, and model respectful disagreement within the Catholic community.

***"Catholics on social media," Barron concluded, "you need to pick up your game."***

Ministry Schedule for: August 22nd & 23rd, 2020 – 21st Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday 5pm</b>	Dave Sllifer	Anne Slifer	Martin Elsner	Liz Torgerson Bob Galdo
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	Renee Moyer	Vanessa Williams	Kalista Williams Violet Williams	Ordinary Time
<b>Sunday 10:30am</b>	Joan Black	Ward VanHaute	Audrey VanHaute Max VanHaute	Patty Leidner Karen Parash



## PLEASE PRAY FOR...

\* New Name Added



June 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>

To RENEW or to ADD a name to our prayer list, please call the parish office.

**OUR SICK:** Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Loretta Bodisch, Ross Brinkert, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, 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, Mark Neustadter, James O'Hanlon, Gerry Pacitti, Pete Shultz, Sr., Steve & Wendy Snyder, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer.

**OUR TROOPS:** Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, 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.