

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 Tirpock

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster: Donna Sciacca

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Mon- Fri: 9:00am

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.

Certificates of Eligibility: Issued to registered parishioners, 16 yrs. and older, received all of their Sacraments of Initiation, attend MASS regularly at St. John's, and receive the sacraments of Communion and Penance often.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month. Sacrament of Baptism



takes place immediately following the 10:30am Mass. Parents and Godparents must attend an enrichment 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

Week of Dec. 14 - 20, 2020

Daily Mass Monday – Friday 9am

Monday: Tom High (*Bernie & Barbara Andrews*)

6:30pm PARISH PENANCE SERVICE

Tuesday: Herbert Hopkins (*Jack Lynch*)

Wednesday: Trouts Family (*Peg Trouts*)

Thursday: Kathryn Korves (*Chris Zdanowicz & Family*)

Friday: Kathleen Lapsley (*John F. Lapsley Jr.*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil, 5pm: John Reidler (*Janet Reidler & Family*)

Sunday, 8am: Ernie D'Angelo (*Jim & Joan Black*)

Sun: 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 1pm

An appointment is required to schedule a Baptism, Wedding, or Funeral. Please contact Donna Sciacca at 610-847-5521 for more information.

Due to the bulletin printer's advance press dates during this holiday season our Mass Collections will be delayed in reporting.

Nov. 29th: \$7,131.00 Envelopes

\$3,146.40 Parish Giving

Dec. 6th: Not available at press time.

Thank you for your generosity!

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE

Bedminster, PA

"A Quiet Country Retreat"

Offering Day Retreats for groups up to 50

Overnight Retreats for groups up to 8

Monday, 7pm

Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday, 9:30am

Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday, 12pm

Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

1st Saturday, 10am

Rosary, Confession, Mass

Followed by Lunch

Call Joan Black for directions, reservations, or more info at 215-795-2947.



GAUDETE SUNDAY

The third Sunday of Advent, also known as **"Gaudete Sunday"** (pronounced with three syllables: gau-de-te) is a time of **JOY**...a time to **REJOICE** for the Lord is near.

Its name is taken from the entrance antiphon of the Mass, which is: **"Rejoice in the Lord always; again I say, rejoice."**

This Sunday's Gospel invites us to continue our reflection on the person and mission of John the Baptist. Today we depart from the Gospel of Mark and read a selection from the Gospel of John.

"A man named John was sent from God. He came for testimony, to testify to the light, so that all might believe through him. He was not the light, but came to testify to the light. And this is the testimony of John."

This prologue places the story of Jesus in its cosmological framework. It speaks of Jesus' existence with God since the beginning of time. In John's Gospel, Jesus is presented as the fulfillment of the Old Testament and the culmination of the Word, the light that is coming into the world's darkness.

Following this prologue, John reports on the ministry of John the Baptist. We learn about the attention that John the Baptist received from the Jewish authorities. Messengers from the Jewish priests, the Levites and the Pharisees question John about his identity and the meaning of the baptisms that he is performing. John's Gospel uses these questions to establish the relationship between Jesus and John the Baptist. John the Baptist is not the Messiah, nor is he Elijah or the Prophet. In John's denials, we hear echoes of the kind of messianic expectations that were common in first-century Palestine.

The only affirmative response that John the Baptist gives is when he quotes the prophet Isaiah, **"I am the voice of one crying out in the desert, make straight the way of the Lord."** Upon answering the next question, John responds, **"I baptize with water; but there is one among you whom you do not recognize, the one who is coming after me, whose sandal strap I am not worthy to untie."**

John's response highlights for us an important Advent theme: Jesus has already come into the world as our savior. During Advent, we pray that we will be able to recognize Jesus' presence in our midst. Advent also reminds us that Jesus will come again to fulfill the promise of salvation. We pray that we will continue to be watchful as we anticipate that great day.

Monday Dec. 14th at 6:30pm



GIVING TREE - Dec. 14th is the deadline for returning gifts. You may drop them at the parish office.



Advent during pandemic can be time to draw closer to Jesus

The global pandemic and new limits on daily activities present a special time for a renewal of faith and the opportunity to deepen appreciation for Jesus in daily life. This year as families are separated, Advent also can be a much-needed quiet time to recognize how the birth of an infant, Jesus, changed the world and his followers are invited to follow his example to help bring peace in a tumultuous era.

"What if we were able to take advantage of this shuttering of our busy lives to observe Advent as our church has always encouraged us to do: a time of reflection, a time of quieting, a time of stillness, to make room for Christ in our daily lives?" Celebrate traditions such as lighting the candles of an Advent wreath at daily dinner, blessing the Christmas tree with prayer, and gathering to reflect in front of a Nativity scene to nurture their faith "as we look forward to the great feast of the Incarnation, the Son of God becoming one of us."

Advent is a time to "experience the loving presence of God in a fresh and profound way,"

"Perhaps it is more meaningful than ever to remember, Emmanuel, God is with us — he never has and never will abandon us,"



A Saint for Advent December 13, the Feast of St. Lucia (Lucy)

In the liturgy of the Church, Saint Lucy has still holds today, the inspiring position of a saint whose very name reminds the faithful at the middle of Advent that her own "light" is only a reflection of the great "Light of the World" which is to start shining at Bethlehem on Christmas Day. It is as if she would say: "I am only a little flame in Advent showing you the way: Behold, the Lord will come, and all His saints with Him, And on that day there will be a great light. Alleluia.

Born in A.D. 283, St. Lucy (Santa Lucia) was a young Sicilian girl who vowed to live as a virgin in devotion to Christ. Her mother, however, arranged a marriage for her to a pagan suitor. To dissuade her mom by proof of a miracle, Lucy prayed at the tomb of St. Agatha that her mother's hemorrhage would stop. When the miracle happened, her mother agreed to leave aside the topic of marriage. Lucy's suitor, however, had other plans, and revealed Lucy as a Christian. Authorities went to collect her, planning on forcing her into prostitution -- but they were unable to budge her, even after tying her to a team of oxen. She was then tortured by having her eyes torn out. They'd planned on torturing her by fire, too, but the fires kept going out. She was then killed by being stabbed in the throat with a dagger. Because of this St. Lucy is the patron of those with eye problems, and is often depicted carrying her eyes (often on a plate). Her relics lay in Syracuse for hundreds of years, were translated to Constantinople, and then to Venice where they may be venerated at the Church of San Geremia. Her head was sent to Louis XII of France, and reposes in the cathedral of Bourges. The Saint is honored with the Neapolitan song "Santa Lucia"

Her name, "Lucia," means "Light," and light plays a role in the customs of her Feast Day. In Italy, torchlight processions and bonfires (Lucy Fires) mark her day, and bowls of a cooked wheat porridge known as Cuccia is eaten because during a famine, the people of Syracuse invoked St. Lucy, who interceded by sending a ship laden with grain. Cuccia can be made so that it's savory or sweet and then served with milk and sugar, much like oatmeal is.

Some of the loveliest St. Lucy's Day customs are Swedish: in Sweden, the oldest daughter of a family will wake up before dawn on St. Lucy's Day and dress in a white gown for purity, often with a red sash as a sign of martyrdom. On her head she will wear a wreath of greenery and lit candles. "St. Lucy" will go around her house and wake up her family to serve them special St. Lucy Day foods, such as saffron buns and Lussekatter, shaped into X's, figure-8s, S-shapes, or crowns.



THE REGINA ACADEMY
at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Knowing ~ Loving ~ Serving



CHRISTMAS BREAK:

Monday, Dec. 21st – Friday, January 1, 2021

Classes resume on Monday, January 4, 2021

NEW DATE

Please Note, all government & Diocese restrictions for face coverings, social distancing, & maximum occupancy limits are to be followed at all times.



Christmas Tableau
Wednesday, Jan. 6, 2021
at 7pm

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director
www.rasjb.org



REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

February 12 - 14, 2021

Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises. For more information, or to register, visit www.HelpOurMarriage.org or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.



315 S. Warren Avenue,
Malvern, PA 19355
610.644.0400

www.malvernretreat.com

**DUE TO THE COVID PANDEMIC, OCCUPANCY IS LIMITED.
PLEASE CONTACT US ABOUT DETAILS. SOME EVENTS HAVE
BEEN POSTPONED.**

SERENITY RETREAT

Friday, Jan 8, 2021 - Sunday, Jan 10, 2021

\$270.00 Attend In Person

\$75.00 Attend Virtually

WOMEN'S TEA

Sunday, Jan 10, 2021

1:30 pm - 4:00 pm

\$25.00 Attend In Person

\$25.00 Attend Virtually

OUR LADY OF FATIMA

Friday, Jan 15, 2021 - Saturday, Jan 16, 2021

5:00 pm - 5:00 pm

\$250.00 Attend In Person

\$75.00 Attend Virtually

HOLY SPIRIT

Friday, Jan. 29, 2021 – Saturday, Jan. 20, 2021

5:00 pm – 5:00 pm

\$250.00 Attend In Person

\$75.00 Attend Virtually



Pre-rally Concert with Matthew West

Join Matthew West before the March for Life Rally for a morning of music and life! The concert will begin on the National Mall at 11 a.m.

March kicks-off at 12pm from the National Mall.

Interested in Attending? Reserve your seat now on the Knights of Columbus Bus, a Sign-Up Sheet is on the pro-life table in our Narthex.




WASHINGTON (CNS) — While confusion has arisen in recent days in the media over “the moral permissibility” of using the COVID-19 vaccines just announced by Pfizer Inc. and Moderna, it is not “immoral to be vaccinated with them,” the chairmen of the U.S. bishops’ doctrine and pro-life committees said Nov. 23.

“Neither the Pfizer nor the Moderna vaccine involved the use of cell lines that originated in fetal tissue taken from the body of an aborted baby at any level of design, development or production,” the two prelates said. “They are not completely free from any connection to abortion, however, as both Pfizer and Moderna made use of a tainted cell line for one of the confirmatory lab tests of their products.

“There is thus a connection, but it is relatively remote,” they continued. “Some are asserting that if a vaccine is connected in any way with tainted cell lines, then it is immoral to be vaccinated with them. This is an inaccurate portrayal of Catholic moral teaching.”

Ministry Schedule for: December 19th & 20th – 4th Sunday of Advent

Ministry Schedule:				
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Saturday 5pm	Peg Glancey	Kim Zampirri	Siobhan Crews	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 8am	Renee Moyer	Megan Gilbert	OPEN	Denny Litzenberger Karen Parash
Sunday 10:30am	Phil Donahue	Tony Luna	Olivia Luna Paige Mattle	Nio Logaivau Bob Galdo



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

* New Name Added

NEW CYCLE: Sept. 1st – Dec. 1st

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, Katie Carty, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, MaryAnn Hauber, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Kathie Mandra, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Nancy Moreno, Jeff Olimpo, Gerry Pacitti, Janet Reidler, Pete Shultz, Sr., Steve & Wendy Snyder, Riley Telesco, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer, Christine Zdanowicz, and all those affected by COVID-19.

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, Aileen Lauer, Stephen Lindmeier, Jason Litschauer, Cory Litzenberger, Dan O'Connor, Jonathan Pucci, Dusty Rhodes, Craig Russell, Steven Salva, Kate Salva, Jack Salva, Ann Salva, and all who we have lost to the Coronavirus.

