

### 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: 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. 21 - 27, 2020**

**Daily Mass Monday – Friday 9am**

**Monday:** Anna Walsh (*The McCords*)

**Tuesday:** Jack Glancey (*Loving Wife & Family*)

**Wednesday:** Kathleen Lapsley (*John Lapsley, Jr.*)

### **Nativity of Our Lord**



**CHRISTMAS EVE**  
**5PM, 7PM, & 9PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY**  
**9AM**

### **Weekend Masses**

**Saturday 5pm:** PJ Patwardhan (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)

**Sunday, 8am:** Elizabeth Petritsch (*Loving Family*)

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

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**THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED**

**Dec. 24<sup>th</sup> – Jan. 1<sup>st</sup>.**

**WE WILL REOPEN on MONDAY, Jan. 4<sup>th</sup>.**

*Wishing All a Blessed Christmas  
and a Joyous, Peace-filled New Year.*

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**Due to the bulletin printer's advance holiday press dates, reporting of our Mass Collections will be delayed.**

*Thank you for your generosity!*

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### **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

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

Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

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

**Rosary, Confession, Mass**

**Followed by Lunch**

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



## THE WORLD'S GREATEST "YES"

*"Behold, I am the handmaid of the Lord. May it be done to me according to your word."*

~Luke 1: 37

Gabriel's brief announcement to Mary foretells the advent of someone absolutely unique: the Davidic king who will rule over all the nations, the one who would save mankind from their sins ("Jesus" means "God saves"), and the one who would fulfill all the Old Testament prophecies about the reunification of Israel and Judah (the "House of Jacob"). The entire gospel is packed into this Annunciation of the Archangel Gabriel to Mary.

Christmas, the part of Christ's life this Gospel passage is connected to, presents us with the mystery of God who became man, but it also includes the mystery of man cooperating in the saving action of God. God sends his messenger to Mary in order to invite her to become the mother of the Savior. When God asked her to take on a role in his plan of salvation, she said yes!

Don't mistake her question to the Archangel Gabriel as doubt. Her question, *"But how can this come about, since I am a virgin?"* Mary was merely asking what God wanted her to do – she had promised her virginity to God, and she wanted to know if God was asking her something else. She didn't doubt God's wisdom or power; she just wanted more instructions.

We can learn no greater lesson than how to say yes to God. Mary's "yes" reversed Eve's "no," and paved the way for Christ's undoing of Adam's fall. Likewise, when God disrupts our lives – through the voice of conscience, the normal responsibilities and demands of our state in life, or the indications of Church teaching – our "yes" can echo Mary's and make more room for Christ in this fallen world. But our "no" – or even our "maybe" – can just as easily shut him out.

Let us pray...

*Thank you for making me a Christian. You are the one Savior, the promised Messiah, and your Kingdom will have no end. You have called me into your Kingdom. What more could I ask for? You have given me your friendship. Lord, teach me to live closer to you, to seek the Father's will as you do, and to see all things with your eyes. Amen*

***Ask these powerful patrons to intercede for our beloved elderly family and friends.***

This year has been particularly difficult on the elderly. There have been many deaths from COVID-19 among seniors, and the loneliness from self-isolation from lockdowns and social distancing has left the already-vulnerable older members of our society in need of support and prayer.

**When praying for the beloved elderly members of our family and community, let's turn to these powerful intercessors to ask for peace, hope, and protection ...**

**St. Anthony - to protect the vulnerable.** The popular saint, born in Portugal but serving in Padua, commonly helps locate lost objects, but he's also a patron of the elderly, as he spent much of his time devoted to the more vulnerable members of society.

**St. Padre Pio - for reassurance and faith.** Known for his profound faith, the Italian friar suffered from many health issues in his life. Through his pain, he also had to contend with the public response to his ability to bi-locate and his stigmata. It wasn't an easy road but he found peace and comfort in his prayer life. He is the perfect saint to intercede for those who may need reassurance.

**St. Thérèse de Lisieux - for anxiety.** From a very young age, this French Carmelite nun suffered from a form of intense anxiety called scrupulosity. Certain that she'd sinned when she had not she only found peace in confession, or from her sisters' affirmation. This anxiety tied her up in knots, so she can certainly understand the fears of our seniors and intercede on their behalf.

**St. Dymphna - for depression.** Being lonely can lead to depression. This 7th-century Irish saint is the perfect saint to call on when struggling with mental health issues. She fled her home to escape her father's assault, and he eventually found and killed her. Many healing miracles have been attributed to her.

**St. Corona - to end the pandemic.** It seems only fitting during this pandemic to call on the help of this 2nd-century saint whose relics lie in the north of Italy. In Austria and Bavaria she is called upon in the event of a pandemic, so pray for her intercession to help those affected by COVID-19, and for an end to it as soon as possible.



## CHRISTMAS 2020

Dear Parents & Guardians,

The first two plus months of this PREP school year has been filled with many astonishing accomplishments. *I applaud each of our Catechists and students for their dedication to academic excellence!*

I admit...launching a virtual program, in uncharted territory is scary. But it is during such times, our faith is tested. We walked by faith and found **our Lord walking with us.**

Now that the wonderful season of Christmas is once again upon us, let us not forget the true spirit of Christmas. A time of worship, sharing and caring, as we prepare to welcome the birth of our Savior, our Lord Jesus Christ.

But let us also not forget our neighbors, those struggling to find the spirit of Hope, Faith, Love, and Peace.

Let us take the time to show them that after the darkness, comes the Light!

Let us ask our Lord to show us the way, to be the light in someone's darkness.

*Wishing all a Blessed Merry Christmas, and a Happy & Healthy New Year.*

*Donna Sciacca, DRE*



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



*The families, staff and board of directors of the Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist want to wish each of you a happy and holy Christmas season.*

*We are blessed to be a part of the parish life, and grateful for your prayers and support.*

*We look forward to seeing you all again in the New Year!*

*"And the Word was made flesh, and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, the glory as of the only begotten of the Father, full of grace and truth."  
John 1:14*

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



### 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.**



315 S. Warren Avenue,  
Malvern, PA 19355  
610.644.0400

[www.malvernretreat.com](http://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

Excerpt from, **The Jerusalem Post Newspaper**

Religious and civic leaders still hope the meaning of the Nativity will shine forth from the town of Jesus' birth.

If the Holy Family had a hard time finding an inn to stay in when Jesus was about to be born, it is the inns of Bethlehem themselves that are having the difficulty this year. The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted life in the Holy Land so much that tourism and religious pilgrimage there are practically non-existent. The Church of the Nativity is closed to the public, as are many other religious sights.

A Christmas tree lighting will be limited to 15 guests, including the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Pierbattista Pizzaballa, and other clergy and civic officials. Midnight Mass, presided over by the Latin Patriarch, has also been scaled back, Salman said. The event will be closed to the general public but broadcast live for people to watch.

"Christmas from Bethlehem this year will still contain "a message of hope to the whole world, that the world will recover from this pandemic."

Local religious leaders concur. As the Custodian of the Holy Land, Franciscan Fr. Francesco Patton, presided over several traditional services to open the Advent season as he told worshippers.



**Tradition tells us that this is the actual site of Jesus' birth.  
Church of the Nativity, Jerusalem, Israel.**

"The pandemic is like the night, there are some nights that are longer than others and some that are shorter, but the night always ends and the sun rises again. And if our sun is the Lord Jesus Christ, we must not fear the night.



Ministry Schedule for: **December 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup> – Feast of the Nativity of Our Lord**  
**Dec. 26<sup>th</sup> & 27<sup>th</sup> - Holy Family of Jesus, Mary, & Joseph**

## Ministry Schedule:

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
<b>Christmas Eve 5pm</b>	<b>Joan Black Jim Black</b>	<b>Kim Zampirri</b>	<b>Leighana Fleck Sawe Logaivau</b>	<b>Ordinary Time</b>
<b>Christmas Eve 7pm</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>Denny &amp; Karen</b>
<b>Christmas Eve 9pm</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>Megan Gilbert</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>Liz &amp; Fred</b>
<b>Christmas Day 9am</b>	<b>Donna Sciacca</b>	<b>Helene Bell</b>	<b>OPEN</b>	<b>Patti L. &amp; Susan R.</b>
<b>Holy Family of Jesus Saturday 5pm</b>	<b>Marion Wolf</b>	<b>Jane Ferry</b>	<b>Julia Byers Juliet Myers</b>	<b>Liz &amp; Fred</b>
<b>Holy Family of Jesus Sunday 8am 10:30am</b>	<u>8am</u> <b>Donna Nice</b>  <u>10:30am</u> <b>Joan Black</b>	<b>Marie Burke</b>  <b>Ward Van Haute</b>	<b>Alexander &amp; Natalie Nice</b>  <b>Audrey &amp; Max Van Haute</b>	<b>Denny &amp; Karen</b>  <b>Patti L. &amp; Karen</b>

**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**

\* New Name Added

**NEW CYCLE:** Dec. 1<sup>st</sup> – March 1stTo 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, Roseann McCarty, 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.