

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 in the Parish: 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 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 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. 28 – January 3, 2021
Daily Mass Monday – Friday 9am

Monday: Jeffrey Miller (*John F. Lapsley, Jr.*)

Tuesday: Tom High (*Harold Rick*)

Wednesday: Sabath Family (*Daughter-in-Law*)

Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God

(Holy Day of Obligation)

Thursday, Dec. 31st, 5pm Vigil Mass

Friday, Jan. 1st, 9am

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions

Sunday, 8am: Ernest D'Angelo (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)

Sun: 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

THE PARISH OFFICE IS CLOSED

Dec. 24th – Jan. 1st.

WE WILL REOPEN on MONDAY, Jan. 4th.

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

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

Dec. 6th: Envelopes \$6,548.00

Parish Giving \$2,176.90

Feast of the Immaculate Conception: \$338.00

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.**



The Holy Family

Pope Francis focused on the theme of pilgrimage in the readings for the Mass on the Feast of the Holy Family on December 27, 2015, also the Jubilee of Families. In particular, the Holy Father highlighted the fact that in both the first reading and the Gospel, an entire family goes on a pilgrimage of prayer together to the house of God. He said that this is a pilgrimage that all families should embark on together, one of prayer and praise. “Fathers, mothers and children together go to the house of the Lord, in order to sanctify the holy day with prayer,” he said. “How important it is for our families to journey together towards a single goal!” He encouraged all families to “share in moments of prayer,” like the parents giving a blessing to the children “at the beginning and end of each day, to trace on their forehead the sign of the cross, as they did on the day of their baptism.” He also pointed out meals as a time of family prayer. “These are all little gestures, yet they point to the great formative role played by the family in the pilgrimage of everyday life,” the pope said.

The Holy Father reflected next on the episode of Christ’s staying in the Temple after his parents left, and conjectured that Jesus asked forgiveness of his parents “for this little ‘escapade.’” He said that a pilgrimage does not end until the family is at home again living out the “spiritual fruits” of the experience. Jesus goes home with Mary and Joseph and is obedient to them. “Moments like these become part of the pilgrimage of each family; the Lord transforms the moments into opportunities to grow, to ask for and to receive forgiveness, to show love and obedience.”

Pope Francis called for every Christian family to “become a privileged place on this pilgrimage for experiencing the joy of forgiveness” in the Year of Mercy. We learn how to forgive in the family, he said. “Let us not lose confidence in the family!...To all of you, dear families, I entrust this most important mission – the domestic pilgrimage of daily family life – which the world and the Church need, now more than ever.”

Biblical advice for parents and children:

Many people honor their mothers on Mother’s Day and their fathers on the Father’s Day by taking them to expensive restaurants for dinner or by sending them valuable gifts. God has not commanded us to keep a day for our mothers or fathers but has rather given us a commandment to guide us in our

relationship with our parents. It is the fourth commandment in the Catholic catechism or the fifth commandment in the Hebrew Bible, given in the book of Exodus: “Honor your father and your mother that your days may be long in the land which the Lord your God gives you.” (Ex 20:12). St. Paul explains this commandment in his letter to the Ephesians: [1] Children, obey your parents in the Lord, for this is right. [2] Honor your father and mother (which is the first commandment with a promise), [3] that it may be well with you, and that you may live long on the earth. [4] And, fathers, do not provoke your children to anger; but bring them up in the discipline and instruction of the Lord. (Eph 6:1-4). “Children, obey your parents in everything, for this pleases the Lord,” Paul says in Col 3:20 and in his letter to the Romans, he reminds us, “the authorities that exist have been established by God” (Rom 13:1). Thus, we obey our parents not because they are the wisest and the fairest and the strongest and the paragons of all virtues, but because they are the parents God has given us, and the command to obey is His.

Influence of the Holy Family on Jesus:

We know that the family of Jesus was steeped in Scripture. Mary’s prayer, the Magnificat, is rich in Old Testament quotations. We know that Jesus’ family had a deep life of piety that included pilgrimages and prayer to the angels. Both Mary and Joseph were accustomed to receiving the guidance of Heaven’s messengers. From Jesus’ adulthood, we can also glimpse the prayer life He learned from His parents. He prayed the morning offering of pious Jews (Mk 12:29-30). He prayed spontaneously. He took time to pray alone. Yet, He also prayed with His friends. Jesus fasted and marked the holy days. All these habits He probably acquired from His home life in Nazareth. We know that work was important to Jesus’ family. In adulthood, Jesus was called not just “Joseph’s son,” but “the carpenter’s son.” Joseph was skilled in a trade that was highly regarded in his day, and he trained Jesus in the same craft. We can conclude from Jesus’ preaching that Mary was industrious and frugal in keeping a house. It was likely from her example that Jesus drew many of His favorite stories: a woman finding just the right cloth to patch a piece of clothing, a woman setting aside leaven for tomorrow’s baking, a widow searching her house for a lost coin. Hard work, struggling to pay the bills, taking long road trips, praying simple devotions — all of this we learn from the real Gospels.



The Most Holy Family

"The Lord sets a father in honor over his children;
A mother's authority he confirms over her sons.
He who honors his father atones for sins;
He stores up riches who reveres his mother."
Sirach 3:2-6, 12-14



By celebrating the **Feast of the Holy Family**, the Church encourages us to look to the Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph for inspiration, example and encouragement.

They were a model family in which both parents worked hard, helped each other, understood and accepted each other, and took good care of their Child so that He might grow up not only in human knowledge but also as a Child of God.

Jesus brought holiness to the family of Joseph and Mary as Jesus brings us holiness by embracing us in His family.

On the Feast of the only perfect Family that ever lived on this earth, all parents might examine themselves and see how well they are fulfilling the grave responsibility which God has placed on them. "Children are a gift from God to you." Children serve as the joy of their parents' young years and the help and comfort of their old age, but above and beyond that, they are a gift for which their parents are accountable before God, as they must, in the end, return these, His children, to Him.

Let us pray for the grace of caring for one another in our own families, for each member of the parish family, and for all families of the universal Church.

Wishing All A
Blessed New Year!



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

Michigan project to replicate Padre Pio's famed hospital in Italy is underway

In 1956, Padre Pio, founded Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza, or Home for the Relief of Suffering, in San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. The world-renowned Catholic international research hospital serves the poor and destitute, and today houses up to 1,000 patients. Padre Pio once said this was the most important thing he did. His dream was the project would one day expand to other parts of the world.

That day has now come.

On a 40-acre plot of land in Howell, Michigan, stands the humble foundation for a worldwide network of health care facilities. Thanks to the vision, faithfulness and tenacity of several Catholic health care organizations, individuals, and the patronage of Lansing Bishop Earl A. Boyea, the Howell project, known as "Casa USA," seeks to duplicate St. Pio's hospital complex for the first time outside of Italy, including an exact replica of the great Capuchin Franciscan saint's original friary church.

The idea has been in the hearts and minds of many for decades, but efforts to establish a campus began when Bishop Boyea donated the land. Right now only a small outdoor grotto with a mural dedicated to St. Pio sits on the land, but in the years ahead, there will be a hospital, an adoration chapel, a Catholic medical school and a rehab center named the Terri Schiavo Home for the Brain Injured. Well before Bishop Boyea donated the land, Padre Pio's vision took hold in the heart of one man who had become disillusioned by the state of Catholic medical care throughout the world, that man is Jere D. Palazzolo, director, chairman and president of Catholic Healthcare International, the Missouri-based nonprofit sponsoring the ambitious project. Palazzolo discovered St. Pio and formed a devotion to him — and learned about the Home for the Relief of Suffering. "Padre Pio's whole focus was the redemptive value of suffering," Palazzolo said. "You can't always make someone well, but you can help them relieve their suffering and find peace. My theory always has been that God is working on every single patient in a hospital as they are working on a crisis in their life. "No one wants to be in a hospital; you have a problem if you are in a hospital. And ultimately, those things are God's way of talking to people."

"If all you do in pastoral care is basically sit down and pray with patients and give them Communion from time to time, that's awesome, and they need that, but they also need someone to sit down and help them figure out what God is trying to say to them in their life. Palazzolo experienced a direct inspiration from the saint: **"It is time."**

Celebrate the New Year's Day Catholic Style
MASS TIMES

Dec. 31st at 5pm & Jan. 1st at 9am

The SOLEMNITY of MARY, MOTHER OF GOD



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.

Ministry Schedule for: **December 31st & January 1st: Solemnity of Mary, the Mother of God**
January 2nd & 3rd, 2021: The EPHIPHANY OF THE LORD

Ministry Schedule:				
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Mary, the Mother of God 5pm	Joan Black	Tom Costello	OPEN	Ordinary Time
Mary, the Mother of God 9am	Frank Balbirer	Helene Bell	OPEN	Karen Parash
Epiphany of the Lord 5pm	Joel Roney	Tom Costello	Siobhan Crews Martin ELsner	Nio Logaivau Susan Rogers
Ephiphany of the Lord 8am	Mark Fetter	Jeanne Keller	Mead Grindrod	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Epiphany of the Lord 10:30am	Jim Black	Sean Lynch	Sawe Logaivau Elia Logaivau	Liz Torgerson Bob Galdo



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

* New Name Added

NEW CYCLE: Dec. 1st – March 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, 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.