PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Simione Volavola, M.S.C.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.
Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok
Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese

PARISH SPIRITUALITY

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 the 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. This certificate should be brought to the enrichment class. 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 anytime

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.***

For the Week of Dec. 31, 2018 – Jan. 6, 2019
Mass Intentions

Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel, Mon. – Fri. at 8:15am

Mon. – Thurs. 8:35am / Friday 9:00am
Dec. 31 – Vigil of the Solemnity of Mary – 5 PM
Jan. 1 – Solemnity of Mary, Holy Mother of God – 9AM
Wednesday: Sam & Josie Viniguerra *(Kathy Vinciguerra)*
Thursday: Joe Pepkowski *(Harold Rick)*
FIRST Friday: Jean Marx *(Art & Kathy)*
24-hr. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament follows Mass.

Weekend Masses

Saturday
9am: Benediction & Adoration closing Mass
5pm: Betty Rick *(Gammello Family)*
Sunday – Epiphany of the Lord
8:00am: Parishioners' Intentions
10:30am: Father Gavin Muir *(Harold Rick)*

Ministry Meetings this Week

Wed. Jan. 3: Flame of Love Rosary, 8am – church
Sat. Jan. 5: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room & Chapel

Sunday Mass Collection

Not Available at Press time

Thank you for your generosity!

OUR CHURCH CLEANING TEAM for the WEEK of December 30th is # 3

Your Service is Greatly Appreciated!

This weekend's Mass READINGS may be found in:

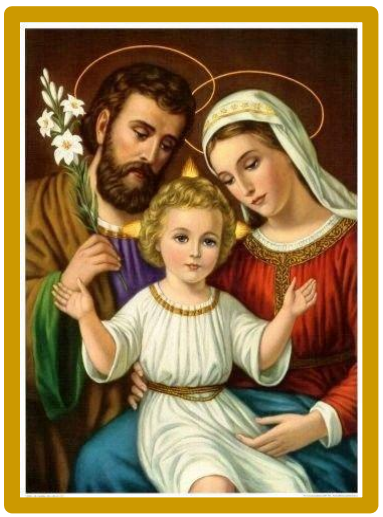
Section 874
Gospel C

Like Us On facebook https://www.facebook.com/Ottsville

The Parish Office will be closed through January 1, 2019.

Learning Holiness at the School of Nazareth

During the Octave (eight days) of Christmas we celebrate the Feast of the Holy Family. The significance of the Feast becomes much more meaningful when we consider the deeper truths it reveals. Yes, it teaches us about Jesus, Mary, and Joseph. But it also speaks to each one of us how to live differently in our own families, make Jesus Christ the center of our life together.



Through our Baptism, we are invited to live our lives in Jesus Christ by living them in the Church - which is the Risen Body of Christ, continuing His redemptive mission. The Church is the place where we learn, as the Apostle Paul reminded the Colossian Christians, to "put on love, that is, the bond of perfection". (Col. 3:14)

The Church, as sacrament and sign, mediates and reveals the Lord's life to us, in the Word proclaimed and the Sacraments communicated. Jesus has been raised from the dead. The head and the Body cannot be separated. He continues his ministry through His Church. As the Catechism states with such simplicity and profundity, "The Church in this world is the sacrament of salvation, the sign and the instrument of the communion of God and men." (CCC# 780)

Our Sunday liturgical readings, in the Roman Rite of the Catholic Church, rotate over a three year sequence. This year we are in Cycle C, and today's Gospel is taken from Luke 2: 42-51.

This story's concern with an incident from Jesus' youth is unique in the canonical gospel tradition. It presents Jesus in the role of the faithful Jewish boy, raised in the traditions of Israel, and fulfilling all that the law requires. With this episode, the infancy narrative ends just as it began, in the setting of the Jerusalem temple.

Here Jesus is twelve years old, and upon leaving Jerusalem his parents notice he is not with their caravan. Besieged with fear, they set out to find him. Three days of frantic searching led them back to the temple in Jerusalem. Where they found Jesus sitting in the midst of of the teachers.

Although his parents were clearly riddled with anxiety and bewilderment as to why Jesus would do this to them, it is Jesus' reply of *"Why were you looking for me? Did you not know that I must be in my Father's house?"* Here Jesus speaks of his divine son-ship, and his obedience to his heavenly Father's will, that takes precedence over the ties to his family.

All of the accounts, in each year, point us to Nazareth and the truth of what occurred there. Yet, it is Luke who offers that profoundly important insight into the life of the supernaturally natural life of the Holy Family. There, in Nazareth, the Holy family lived a Holy life, precisely because Jesus was at the center of it all.

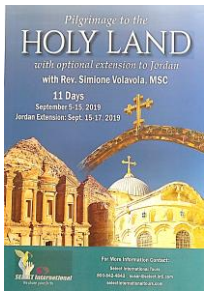
We can learn the meaning and mystery of this beautiful Feast and apply it to our own family life. The path to our own holiness is found in living our ordinary family life with the Lord Jesus at the center of it all. It becomes naturally supernatural. The family is the first school of prayer where, from their infancy, children learn to perceive God thanks to the teaching and example of their parents. An authentically Christian education cannot neglect the experience of prayer. If we do not learn to pray in the family, it will be difficult to fill this gap later. The Christian family is the first cell of the whole Christian Church. It is the place where we begin the journey toward holiness and learn to become more fully human. The Incarnate Word, Jesus Christ, became one of us. He was born into a human family. That was neither accidental nor incidental. There, in what the late Pope Paul VI called the *School of Nazareth*, we can learn the way of love. Within the holy habitation of Nazareth, He forever transformed family life. Now, He teaches us how to live in His presence, if we will enroll in the School of Nazareth.

From antiquity the Christian family has rightly been called a domestic church. In our life within the Christian family Jesus Christ is truly present. However, we need the eyes to see Him at work, the ears to hear His instruction and the hearts to make a place for Him to dwell. In our family we can learn the way of selfless love by enrolling in the School of Nazareth.

Join Father Simi on a visit to the Holy Land!

September 2019 Tour.

Limited to the first 30 pilgrims who register.



RESERVE YOUR SEAT NOW!

Visit our parish website & click on brochure for full details.

TEACH the CHILDREN

JANUARY 1st is a HOLY DAY OF OBLIGATION

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Why do Catholics honor Mary as Mother of God?

On this holy feast day, we honor our Blessed Mother, who in her "yes" to God brought our Savior into the world to redeem us.
Jesus said on the cross, *"Behold your Mother."*
Way back in 431, theologians debated the question: Who is Mary in God's plan?
In the end, the bishops declared that Mary is really the mother of Jesus and Jesus is really God. So it must be said that Mary is the Mother of God. The oldest Christian greeting of Mary was proclaimed when Mary's relative Elizabeth called her "Mother of my Lord." When Elizabeth welcomed Mary, she recognized both the great privilege God had given Mary and Mary's great faith in accepting it. For centuries, Mary has been praised because she believed. She is Mother of God because of her faith in God. The Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God, celebrates Mary's faith and trust in God alone. The Church wants us to imitate her faith.

JANUARY 2019

DATES TO REMEMBER

Jan. 7th & 8th - PREP Mass
Jan. 21st - No PREP, MLK Jr. Day
Jan. 24th - Sacrament of 1st Reconciliation
6pm in the church

Attention Parents of children receiving their Sacrament of First Reconciliation:
Please submit your personal ***"Letter to Your Child"*** as described in our parent meeting, to their teacher on or before JANUARY 15th.

The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

Classes Resume on Thursday, January 3, 2019

Mr. John Mundy, Headmaster
610-847-5523 / jmundy@rasjb.org
Mr. Geoff Meyer, Dir. of Institutional Advancement
610-960-7062 / gmeyer@rasjb.org
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director: 267-424-5762

www.RASJB.org

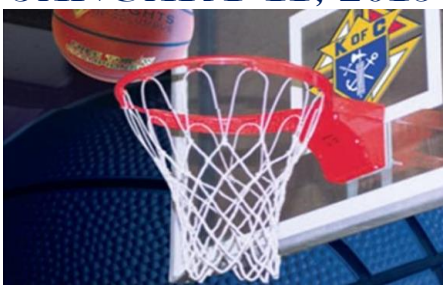
FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER
Bedminster, PA

"A Quiet Country Retreat Center"
Offering Day & Overnight Retreats for Individuals & Small Groups

Monday, 7pm: Adoration & Prayers
Wednesday, 9:30am: Adoration & Prayers
3rd Sunday, 12pm: Adoration & Prayer for Vocations
1st Saturday: 10am- Rosary, Confession Mass & Lunch

For more information or directions, please call Joan Black at 215-536-3508, or visit us at fatimahousebedminster.webs.com

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS
FREE THROW COMPETITION
JANUARY 11, 2019



REGISTRATION OPENS AT 6 PM
OPEN TO BOYS & GIRLS 9 - 14

9 Days for Life is a multi-faceted novena for the respect and protection of every human life. Each day, a different intention is accompanied by a short reflection, suggested actions, and related information.
www.usccb.org/about/pro-life-activities/january-roe-events/nine-days-of-prayer-penance-and-pilgrimage.cfm

Sponsored by the Knights of Columbus

UNIQUE FROM DAY ONE

March for Life – Washington, D.C.
Friday, Jan. 18, 2019

If you plan to attend, please add your name to the sign-up sheet in our Narthex before all the seats are taken. This bus serves both parishes of St. John's and St. Lawrence – so, DON'T DELAY, SIGN TODAY!

For more information, contact Kevin Murphy (his phone number is on the sign up sheet, located on the pro-life table in our Narthex).

WORSHIP WHILE YOU WORK

OUR PARISH CLEANING TEAMS ARE IN NEED OF MORE VOLUNTEERS.

5 TEAMS ROTATE MONTHLY. NO SET TIMES, CLEAN WHEN YOU ARE ABLE DURING YOUR ASSIGNED WEEK. To volunteer contact Marion Wolf or leave a message at the parish office.

Did you know you can donate your Scrip credits?

MAGS SCRIP CARDS available for purchase in the Narthex before all weekend Masses AND at the parish office daily. Not just for school credits.
Donate your earned credits toward any of the several parish funds in need of financial support such as PREP, Lord's Pantry, Church Fuel, church repairs (Tower & Baptistry). You choose where your credits go.

Divine Worship
Liturgical Assembly
Sat., Jan. 12th 9am – 12:30pm

8:30am – 9 am: Registration in the Narthex
9am – 9:30am: Feast of the Baptism of Our Lord, Opening Benediction.
9:30am-10am: Round Table Discussions
10:05am-10:20am: Main church – Oral Report
10:20am-10:35am: Break & Refreshments
10:35am-11:05am: Round Table 2 Discussions
11:05am - 11:20am: Main church, Oral Report
11:20am-11:50am: Fr. Simi – followed by closing prayer.
12:00pm-12:30pm: Light Refreshments

Let your voice be heard - Please complete a survey, available on our website or in the Narthex.
To register for the Assembly, email your contact info to: divineworship@stjohnsottsville.org

Please remember in your prayers our parishioners, who are sick, homebound, in the hospital, under hospice or residential care.
Susan Ackerman, Lillian Appleman, Patricia Baker, Nancy Beans, John Becker, Loretta Bodisch, Patti Bucci, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, MaryJane Deutsch, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Marvin Eichlin, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Herman Fleck, Paulette Frankenfield, Claire Fratrik, Janet Galen, Kathi Gallegher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Florence Hancharik, Bill Hejnor, Joyceann Heley, Michael Heuston, Sharon Horvath, Charles Houston, Martha Juchnowicz, Carol Knight, Valerie Korbar, Aleena Lang, Nate Leidtke, Ryan Leven, Kathy Lightkep, Marie Louzon, Charles Lutcavage, Loretta Malloy, Jill Martindell, Adelaide McElderry, Carol McGlinchey, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, , Emma Michael, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Harvey Mueller, Charles Murphy, James O'Hanlon, Gabrialle Otero, Gary Palmer, Helen Pepkowski, Victoria Pepkowski, Nicholas Powell, Judielynn Protentis, Don Raman, Mike Ramos, Rachael Rice, Gregory Rickert, Joy & Teddy Rodman,Sandy Romaszewski, Sam Rothman, Frederick R. Rude, Dolly Rutherford, Zina Sauerwine, Bob Sheetz, Lana Schell, Ronald Schultz, Sr., Frank & Joyce, Mary Jane Shuman, Baby Ella Stack, Jenna Stanzio, Shane Stroup, Sean Thatcher, Baby William Patrick Thomas, Cynthia Tocci, Maddie Tomaszewski, Douglas Toner, Betty Ventresca, Helen Wall, Diane Wesoski, Maryjane Whealton, Tamara Widmer, Edward Wismer, Baby Logan Yoder, Liem Zbyszinski

THANK YOU FOR SERVING & PROTECTING OUR FREEDOMS.

Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey de Lauretis, 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, Don Valdez.

January 5th & 6th
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5 PM	Joe Cegielski Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey Dave Slifer	Anne Slifer	Brigid Froman Danny Froman Elia Logaivau	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 8 AM	Nancy Kaczinski Jackie Litenberger Donna Nice Weez Roney	Jeanne Keller	Tommy Loughran Natalie Nice Violet Williams	Patty Leidner Karen Parash
Sunday 10:30 AM	Joan Beebe Gerri Belsito Wendy DeGroot Dolly Kovacs	Laura Fleck	Dakota Campbell Joey DeVenuto Joseph Gonzales-Fleck	Amleto Pucci Karen Parash