

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. 7 - 13, 2020

Daily Mass Monday – Friday 9am

Monday: Miriam Burke (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)

Feast of the Immaculate Conception (*Holy Day*)

Tuesday, Dec. 8 at 9am & 7:30pm

Wednesday: Phyllis Gervase (*Donna Sciacca*)

Thursday: Lucky Lambing (*Lorraine Lambing*)

Friday: Kathleen Lapsley (*John Lapsley*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil, 5pm: Jim Wismer (*Ed Wismer*)

Sunday, 8am: Parishioners' Intentions

Sun: 10:30am: Ernie D'Angelo (*Wendy DeGroot*)

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. 22nd: \$5,132.00 Envelopes

\$1,881.35 Parish Giving

Nov. 29th: **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.



Second Sunday of Advent invites us to a meta-dream

by Mary M. McGlone

Today is the second Sunday of Advent. What's the line that sticks with you? Is it "Prepare ye the way of the Lord!" or "Every valley shall be exalted" - that might be the test of whether you are more a fan of "Godspell" or Handel's "Messiah." Those two show us how popular culture picks up on Scripture and brings it into mainstream consciousness. (Yes, Handel started out as part of 18th-century popular culture.) Once we get out of the realm of music, those two lines could summarize the message of this second Sunday of Advent.

"Prepare the way!" What's the call in that? John the Baptist, one of the Christian Scripture's most colorful characters, got people's attention with that message. We quote him as saying "repent," but the word he used wasn't quite so puritanical. John didn't call for self-incriminating scruples but for a radical open-mindedness. The Greek word is *metanoia*, coming from *meta* which means "beyond" and *nous* which refers "to the mind." Thus, *metanoia* can be seen as a call to go beyond our typical or "normal" mindset. It speaks of a change in our vision of life that will bring about a transformation of the way we live.

The Gospel tells us that everybody was flocking to John at the Jordan to confess their sins and go through John's cold-water, cleansing dunk. If we imagine that scene with the excesses of crowds and enthusiasm Mark describes, we will get quite a picture. The crowd's confession of sin wasn't at all what we think of as a recitation of transgressions — and there was nothing private about it. It was a communal and enthusiastic public demonstration in which groups of people got excited about the idea that life could be much better than it was. Their confession said, "We've settled for less, but no more!"

The corollary to that confession, what brought it about and what it was intended to lead to, was a dream about how things could be. Isaiah offered people a vision of a world without the divisions and barriers symbolized by valleys and mountains. Everything that plagued people, families and nations would be smoothed out. The whole world would see how good God is. All peoples would learn that the power of God is the power of love, that God enters history not as a warrior but like a shepherd.

Mark doesn't spell out John's version of that dream in the ways that Matthew and Luke do. Mark cuts to the quick and says John preached three things: repentance, forgiveness and the coming of one who would baptize with the Holy Spirit. Mark often gives us the Cliffs

Notes version of the Gospel, an approach that challenges us to spell out the details in the ways most appropriate to our own time and place.

This year, the second Sunday of Advent comes before two great feasts of Mary: the Immaculate Conception and Our Lady of Guadalupe. The feast of the Immaculate Conception celebrates Mary as the first one redeemed by Christ; we might think of her as the first fully human person in history, the one who fulfilled all her potential as a child of God, a fully self-giving collaborator with the plan of God. The feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe brings the Gospel message uniquely home to the Americas. In celebrating *La Morenita* (as she is fondly called in Spanish-speaking cultures), we celebrate the fact that the Incarnation implies inculturation.

Just as the word took flesh in the first century, Our Lady of Guadalupe is a visible image of Christianity's ability to express itself in the signs and symbols, the language and culture of every people on earth.

The second Sunday of Advent invites us to a meta-dream. Isaiah and the images of the Blessed Virgin give us a vision of what life can be like. We are created with the potential to share divine life, to share the joy of being part of a humanity at peace, smoothing out what divides us and rejoicing in the multiple ways our different cultures can incarnate the love of God. We will never make it happen if we don't first imagine it. The call to repent is a call to let go of our puny expectations. The promise of forgiveness tells us that God will never condemn us to remain trapped in the selfishness we have chosen. There is always more possibility.

Finally, the promise of Christ's gift of the Holy Spirit tells us that we, like Mary, can be overshadowed by God and become bearers of Christ's presence in our world. The glory of the Lord can be revealed in us and among us. Let us open our minds and hearts and prepare the way of the Lord.





**Today is the
Feast of
St. Nicholas
Bishop of Myra**

is one of the most popular saints in the Western world. Considered primarily as the patron saint of children, Nicholas is also invoked by sailors, merchants, bakers, travelers and pawnbrokers, and with Saint Andrew is honored as the co-

patron of Russia.

His uncle, the archbishop of Myra in Lycia, ordained him and appointed him abbot of a nearby monastery. At the death of the archbishop, Nicholas was chosen to fill the vacancy, and he served in this position until his death. About the time of the persecutions of Diocletian, he was imprisoned for preaching Christianity but was released during the reign of Emperor Constantine.

Legends state that Nicholas saved three sisters from lives of shame by secretly dropping small sacks of gold through their family's window at night, thus giving each a marriage dowry. Other legends relate that Nicholas secretly put coins in shoes that were left out for him. Nicholas' legacy of gift-giving became a Central-European and Anglo-Saxon expression of the gift-giving formerly exclusive to the Three Kings. Christmas night gift-giving in Northern lands thus slowly replaced the more biblically solid traditions of giving gifts on the Feast of the Epiphany, a custom more popular in Southern Europe and in lands which inherited its traditions.

Santa Claus has roots. He wears red for the martyrs. He dons a hat resembling a bishop's mitre. He often holds a sceptre similar to a bishop's crozier. And he distributes gifts to children in humble anonymity on the night of Christ's birth. Old Saint Nick, Father Christmas, Kris Kringle, or Santa Claus is real, in one sense. In all likelihood, he signed the Nicene Creed. Our "Santa," then, was an orthodox Catholic bishop who argued for correct teaching about our Trinitarian God. The gift of the truth was, then, his first and most lasting gift to mankind.



**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

Save the Date

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



Christmas Tableau
Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 at 7pm

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



Due to pandemic restrictions, we will be giving our Pantry Family's Gift Cards this year. The tree tags will indicate the preferred gift card (Target, Walmart, Giant). Gift cards may be purchased through the parish office.

Gifts need to be back by Dec. 14th.



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.



Thank you to all who donated to our PREP Christmas Fundraiser...**OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD**...because of you we were able to send those a check in the total amount of **\$2,337.50**



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.

VIRTUAL CHRISTMAS CONCERT

PRAYER for PEACE

December 13th at 2pm


Join the Cathedral Basilica Schola and instrumentalists as they perform works by Abbie Betinis, Frank La Rocca, Julian Wachner, William Walton, as well as beloved Christmas Carols for all to sing along. May we all experience the hope, joy and love of our Lord, Jesus Christ, throughout the Christmas season.

For more information or to purchase tickets visit:

<http://cathedralphila.org/music/choirs-at-the-cathedral-basilica>

Ministry Schedule for: December 12th & 13th – 3rd Sunday of Advent

Ministry Schedule:				
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Saturday 5pm	Dave Slifer	Anne Slifer	Paige Mattle Juliet Myers	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
Sunday 8am	Jim Black	Jane Ferry	OPEN	Liz Torgerson Fred Furaniak
Sunday 10:30am	Frank Balbirer	Ward VanHaute	Caius VanHaute Max VanHaute	Ordinary Time



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, 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.

