

### PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Simone R. 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 Feb. 25 – March 3, 2019**

#### **Mass Intentions**

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

#### **Mon. – Thurs. 8:35am / Friday 9:00am**

Monday: Joseph Gervase (*Donna Sciacca*)  
Tuesday: Joe Shuman (*Bob & Peg Trouts*)  
Wednesday: Elizabeth Petritsch (*Loving Family*)  
Thursday: Louise Palazzola (*Tony & Rose Polito*)  
Friday: Donald Hafler (*Jim & Joan Black*)

***First Friday 24-hr. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament opens immediately following Mass.***

#### **Weekend Masses**

##### **Saturday**

9am: Benediction & Adoration Closing Mass  
*for the healing of Maria Middleton*

5pm: Catherine Smith (*Joseph & Jacqueline Cristini*)

##### **Sunday**

8am: Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am: Jean Marx (*Paul & Jen Kleinot*)

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#### **Ministry Meetings this Week**

Mon. Feb. 25: Christ Life Prayer Gr., 7:30PM - Chapel

Wed. Feb. 27: Flame of Love Rosary, 8am – Church

Lector Refresher, 9:15am, Church

Thurs. Feb. 28: **2019 Confirmation Mtg.**, 6:30pm – Chapel

Sat. March. 2: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room & Chapel

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#### **Weekly Mass Collection**

Envelopes / Parish Giving (*Electronic Deposit*)

Feb. 10th: \$5,724.00 / \$600.00

Feb. 17th: \$5,060.00 / \$694.00

***Thank you for your generosity!***

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**FOR THE MOST UP TO DATE INFORMATION ON PARISH EVENTS AND OTHER NEWS, VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT:**

**[www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org)**

**AND DON'T FORGET TO "LIKE" OUR FACEBOOK PAGE**

**<https://www.facebook.com/ottsville>**



## *A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Simi*



Dear brothers and sisters,

Be merciful, just as your Father is merciful.  
(Luke 6:36)

Last Sunday, we gathered around our Lord as He began His sermon on the plain. We imagined ourselves as being part of the multitude and each person arrived with their own unique relationship to the Teacher.

To His disciples He addresses His teachings of the beatitudes. The twelve apostles are among them. Each of them has experienced in a unique way God's holiness shining merciful light on their own sinfulness through the gaze of Jesus.

In that gaze, none felt shamed, condemned, excluded but each felt loved, forgiven and counted as worthy to be partners with Him in His mission. And His mission was to extend that loving, forgiving and inclusive gaze of the Father to all creation, beginning with that crowd that had come to join them on that plain.

The beatitudes lay bare for us our own state as creatures that have abandoned or rejected their Creator. Our poverty, our hunger, our sadness that causes us to weep remains pitiable and woeful states outside of the gaze of the merciful Father who created us.

In Jesus' gaze, the first disciples have come to experience for the first time in a very unique and powerful way God's response to their sin, their once pitiable and woeful state of poverty and hunger and sadness.

He does not shame them in their poverty but fills them, does not condemn them in their hunger but feeds them, does not abandon them in their sadness but consoles them. Till Jesus' arrival into their lives, they had never known such love, such extravagant love, such faithful love, unchanging and undying.

So overwhelming and infinite is this mercy they experience that their poverty, hunger and sadness have become a state of blessedness. God, through Jesus floods, overpowers and transforms our pitiable and woeful state into a state of blessedness.

It is this powerful experience of the beatitude that has moved the disciples to leave everything, their old way of life, their old way of tending to their own poverty, hunger and sadness to follow Jesus. In Him they have found their fullness, their food, their joy in measures unlimited.

Today, our Lord expands on that basic teaching of God's forgiving love for us sinners. He exhorts us to remain in that love. Our poverty remains, our hunger

persists and our sadness endures but they should remain states of blessedness for us only if we in turn communicate and share that forgiving love with others.

In Jesus, our old habits of hatred of others whom we have condemned as enemies do not magically disappear but must now be denied control and lordship. In Jesus and with His help, we must begin to build up a new habit of seeing others' poverty, hunger and sadness as our own.

Every enemy shares in our own poverty and hunger and sadness and we in theirs. As children on the first Adam, we all inherited and are co-responsible of our pitiable state of poverty, hunger and sadness.

Like Peter and the rest of the disciples, we are going to be trained throughout the rest of our lives to keep subjecting the first nature of Adam in us to the heavenly nature of Christ.

When we have forgiven someone seven times already and feel that seven chances are enough, we must never forget how we ourselves have been looked upon by God with a love that infinitely supersedes our many (more than seven) grievous sins.

Let us then not tire in asking the Father for the forgiveness of our sins lest we forget how much we are loved, lest we forget how to love.

Let us stay in touch with our own poverty, our own hunger and our own sadness and there invite the Lord to fill us, feed us and lift us up to Himself, to His own nature, the nature of loving the ungrateful and the wicked, the just and the unjust alike.

## *Father Simi*

### 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](http://fatimahousebedminster.webs.com)



TEACH the CHILDREN



### LENT begins on Ash Wednesday, March 6<sup>th</sup>.

During the season of Lent and Holy Week, we practice the Lenten disciplines of prayer, fasting, and the giving of alms. the word "Alleluia" is rooted in a Hebrew expression that means "praise the Lord." It is frequently found in the Psalms and has been always associated with joy and exultation. This is why it is forbidden during Lent, a somber liturgical season focused on the sacrifice of Jesus Christ on the cross. It is a kind of purposeful self-denial so that there will be contrasts in the landscape of our praise and prayer.

It's time to **BURY THE ALLELUIA!**

----- Cut out the image below -----



The "Burying of the Alleluia" should take place on the Sunday preceding Ash Wednesday, after Mass during which the last Alleluia will be sung for the next 40 days.

**Engage** the children in creating a tangible "Alleluia" cloth Banner, or use the cut-out above, color and glue it to a piece of cloth or felt.

**Each** should write an intention on the back of it that you will pray. You could also include a corporal work of mercy.

**Create** a burial box or cloth sack in which to place it. Be sure children get involved in this hands-on action.

**Find** or dig a place for the "burial." This could involve a lively search for just the right hiding place in your home or in your front or back yard.

**Mark** the burial spot with small stones & one large stone.

**Christians** over the centuries didn't think it was right to simply stop saying it. Instead they "buried" it in a solemn ceremony. It was a way to put the Alleluia into the "tomb," only to discover it again at Easter when the stone is removed and the Alleluia is "resurrected."



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

## The Catholic Classical Curriculum You Have A Choice

The Classical curriculum is a time proven method that nurtures student's intellectual and spiritual potential, inspiring them to want to learn. It teaches them logic, reason and critical thinking; showing them how not just what to think.

A Classical education develops students' analytical and critical thinking skills by teaching them how to use reason and think logically. This prepares children for higher-level learning, teaches them to become solutions-oriented problem-solvers, and develops independent thinkers who seek the truth; all through the lens of our Catholic Faith.

Does this time tested approach still work in today's education systems where standardized tests have taken over?

The answer is a resounding YES! Students who learn through this method have been shown to:

1. Have higher SAT scores in reading, math and writing as compared to those from other public, independent and religious schools (1).
2. Will learn to speak and write more effectively, more articulately and more persuasively.
3. Will develop the skills, self-confidence and moral filter needed to navigate our increasingly complex society.

### Phone, Email, Visit...

We look forward to meeting you and answering your questions. Let us introduce you to The Academy as you seek the right school for your family.

Mr. John Mundy, Headmaster

610-847-5523 / [jmundy@rasjb.org](mailto:jmundy@rasjb.org)

Mr. Geoff Meyer, Dir. of Institutional Advancement

610-960-7062 / [gmeyer@rasjb.org](mailto:gmeyer@rasjb.org)

Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director: 267-424-5762

[www.rasjb.org](http://www.rasjb.org)



**Christ Life Prayer mtg. - Mon. Feb. 25<sup>th</sup> 7:30PM in the Chapel.** This prayer meeting includes **LECTIO DIVINA**...In Christianity, *Lectio Divina* is a traditional Benedictine practice of scriptural reading, meditation and prayer intended to promote communion with God and to increase the knowledge of God's word. It does not treat scripture as texts to be studied, but as the living word. The practice of **contemplative reading** allows you to slow down and engage deeply and intuitively with a given passage, letting meaning dawn through **contemplation** and present-moment awareness.



## SUNDAY LENTEN BIBLE STUDY

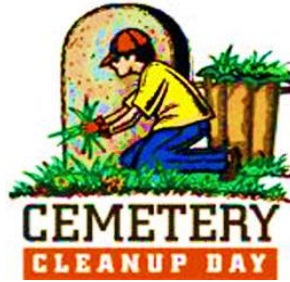
9:15 – 10:15 AM

...more information to follow.

## Make This Lent a Game-Changer!

Give your spiritual life a workout this Lent by going on a mystical journey with the saints through the seven mansions of the soul. **Live Like a Catholic** is an **8-week on-line course** based on "The Interior Castle" by St. Teresa of Avila. Hosted by the Catholic Life Institute and taught by Susan Brinkmann OCDS, this course examines the soul's journey from conversion to mystical marriage. Through study and self-examination, students learn how to detach from sinful habits, acquire true humility, discern the devil's tricks, purify the heart, become more steadfast in faith, and advance in prayer. Classes will be held every Wednesday evening from 7-8 p.m. EST from March 13-May 1 via ZOOM video conferencing (no special software required). Cost is \$35 per person, plus the price of the workbook. Registration is required! Visit [www.freeandfaithful.com](http://www.freeandfaithful.com) for more information and to register.

## SATURDAY, MARCH 2<sup>nd</sup> at 10 AM



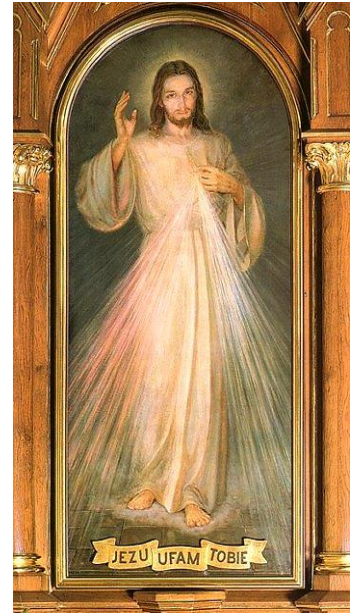
**VOLUNTEERS NEEDED.**  
Bring your work gloves and whatever tools you may have to help  
**CLEAN UP THE**  
**the**  
**GROUND &**  
**HEADSTONES.**

**NO EXPERIENCE  
NECESSARY!**

Join us each day  
at 3PM  
during LENT to  
pray the  
**DIVINE MERCY  
CHAPLET.**

Bring your Rosary Beads.

Handouts of the prayer  
will be available.



## 40 DAYS FOR LIFE® SAVE THE DATE...March 29, 2019

St. John's and St. Lawrence's parish community will take part in the **Spring 40 Days for Life 24-hr. Prayer Vigil** outside the Warminster "Planned Parenthood" abortion mill. **All time slots are currently open.** A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex.

Planned Parenthood, 610 Louis Drive, Warminster, PA



## Blood Drive!

**Friday, March 1<sup>st</sup>  
1pm – 7pm**

**In the Parish Hall**  
Appointments Preferred  
Walk-Ins welcome



**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, Dominic Chiarello, Anne Colyer, Charlene Cornell, Matthew Crance, Jim Crawford, Chrissy Davis, Joy Davis, MaryJane Deutsch, Larry & Joanne Diehl, Terry Dunn, Arlene Eichlin, Marvin Eichlin, George Farrelly, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Vincent Fioretta, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Herman Fleck, Claire Fratrik, Janet Galen, Kathi Gallagher, Kathleen Gaughan, Dylan Geroni, Kathy Geroni, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Anna Giebler, Mary Halwski, Maryann Hauber, 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 McLaughlin, Anne McNichol, Emma Michael, Maria Middleton, Nancy Moreno, Lorraine Mosolgo, Harvey Mueller, Charles Murphy, James O'Hanlon, Gabriel 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.

**March 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>: 8th Sunday in Ordinary Time  
March 6<sup>th</sup> Ash Wednesday**

|                               | Extraordinary Minister  | Lector         | Altar Server  | Music                          |
|-------------------------------|---|----------------|---|--------------------------------|
| <b>Saturday<br/>5 PM</b>      | Peg Glancey<br>Jackie Litzenberger<br>Joel Roney<br>Dave Slifer | Anne Slifer    | Martin Elsner<br><b>NEED<br/>VOLUNTEERS</b>               | Julia Costello<br>Karen Parash |
| <b>Sunday<br/>8 AM</b>        | Mark Fetter<br>Nancy Kaczinski<br>Donna Nice<br>Bea Romaszewski | Marie Burke    | Tommy Loughran<br>Natalie Nice<br>Violet Williams         | Amletto Pucci<br>Karen Parash  |
| <b>Sunday<br/>10:30 AM</b>    | Joan Beebe<br>Gerri Belsito<br>Lynn Gammello<br>Donna Sciacca   | Laura Fleck    | Gianna Gammello<br>Joseph Gonzales-Fleck<br>Elia Logaivau | Children's Choir               |
| <b>ASH WEDNESDAY<br/>9 AM</b> | Jim Black<br>Joan Black   | John Zdanowicz | <b>NEED 2<br/>VOLUNTEERS</b>                              | <b>Fred &amp; Liz</b>          |
| <b>7:30 PM</b>                | Joe Cegielski<br>Dorothy Cegielski                              | Jeanne Keller  | Brigid Froman<br>Danny Froman                             | <b>Ordinary Time</b>           |

**ALL BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 12:00 pm on the Monday preceding the intended bulletin publication date. Email submissions to [prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org)**