

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Simone 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. 4 - 10, 2019

Mass Intentions

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

Mon. – Thurs. 8:35am / Friday 9:00am

Monday: Joe Shuman (*Harold Rick*)

Tuesday: Betty Ayers (*Tom & Sue Rogers*)

Wednesday: Maria Meier (*Ron Meier*)

Thursday: Charles Hering (*Kosmin Family*)

Friday: Joe Shuman (*Mark & Betty Koch*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday: 5pm: Betty Rick (*Jim & Terri Keogh*)

Sunday: 8am: Blanche Nigro (*John & Chris Zadaonwicz*)

10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

Ministry Meetings this Week

Mon. Feb. 4: K of C 6pt. Mtg., 7:30 – Marian Room

Wed. Feb. 6: Flame of Love Rosary, 8am – church
RCIA, 3:30pm – Parish Office

Thurs. Feb. 7: Baptismal Enrichment, 6pm – Parish Office

Mass Collection

THE YEAR END TOTALS ARE IN....

2018 CHRISTMAS COLLECTION = \$16,895.00

Weekly Collection updates:

Envelopes / Electronic Donations (Parish Giving)

Jan. 20th: \$ 6,401.00 / \$646.00

Jan. 27th: \$ 6,306.00 / \$446.00

Thank you for your generosity!

WE
NEED
YOUR
HELP

VOLUNTEER TO
SERVE
Once a month
PARISH CLEANING
MINISTRY

Contact the parish office



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

*A Letter from
Our Pastor, Father Simi*



Dear brothers and sisters,

***“When the people in the synagogue heard this,
they were all filled with fury.”***
(Luke 4:28.)

Last Sunday, we heard Jesus announcing Himself as the fulfillment of God’s promise of the anointed servant to His own people in Nazareth. This Sunday we see how they respond. They are at first amazed, then offended that He is claiming to be more than what His father Joseph was, then they were infuriated.

So infuriated they were that they attempted to end His life. *They rose up, drove him out of the town, and led him to the brow of the hill on which their town had been built, to hurl him down headlong.* (Luke 4:29)

The offer of salvation to our poverty, our blindness, our captivity and the forgiveness of our debts to God that Jesus makes to His own family in Nazareth is rejected, Jesus along with that free and gratuitous offer of salvation.

Our Lord is not unlike any of the prophets before Him or after Him in that He faces rejection from the very people that God the Father chooses eternally to love and to save. Held captive by sin and death, we are blind to God’s saving presence in our midst and blind to the lofty vision of who God intends us to be.

We have become accustomed to being deformed and disfigured and blind, accustomed to being less than what our Creator Father intends us to be.

Yet our Lord, the anointed servant of the Father remains gentle and kind and loving. How does He respond? *But he passed through the midst of them and went away.* (Luke 4:30.)

By doing so He witnesses to His own authority over His own life, for He chooses to lay it down and take it up again only when He and the Father chooses. *No one takes it from me, but I lay it down on my own. I have power to lay it down, and power to take it up again. This command I have received from my Father.”* (John 10:18.)

This is a lesson that our Lord wishes to teach us today: we have no power over Him. However we might want to attempt to reject or be indifferent to or actively lead others away from Him and His saving work, Christ

remains true and committed to His mission of saving us.

God is love, Christ is love. It is essence, His being is to love. His essence is unchanging. There is nothing we can do that will change God’s loving nature. We have no power over that love that God is.

Let us then see how He endures in His love for his kinsfolk in Nazareth and for all who reject and are infuriated by His claims: He passes through the midst of us and goes away. This is a scene worth contemplating for the coming week.

Lest we fear that He has abandoned us and left us to our own hardheartedness, our own blindness, our own captivity, our own poverty, we must remain open to the rest of the gospel, of the good news.

He goes away from Nazareth and toward Jerusalem, towards the cross, to that center where all poverty and captivity and blindness intersect and it is precisely there where all humanity, living and deceased intersect, it is precisely there that He lays down His life for all of creation.

It is there that His unchanging and undying love remains for all of us who are still poor and seeking His fullness, captive and seeking His liberation, completely bound in debt and seeking forgiveness of that debt.

Hope wasn’t lost to Jesus people in Nazareth. Hope is not lost to us. Lord, let your love fill us and restore your loving likeness in us.

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:

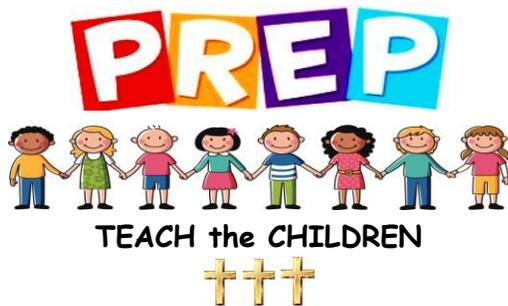
Adoration & Prayers

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



TEACH the CHILDREN

THE ST. IGNATIUS' EXAMEN FOR CHILDREN

For the Parents: St. Ignatius' Examen provides a tool and encouragement for us to review our actions, and the events of our day. The purpose of the Examen is **not** to critique or instruct children on their behavior. The purpose is for **each** person to look carefully at their day, name that for which they are most grateful and least grateful, one way they showed love and one way they did not show love or withheld showing love. Practicing the Examen must be a safe place for each person: **no criticizing, no raising voices, no judgement.** It is a spiritual discipline to view and name the ways each person saw God present in her or his day or made God manifest through his or her actions. It is also a time to receive God's mercy and love for times when we have missed the mark by not loving, being kind, compassionate, or sharing with others. It is important to be consistent with this daily practice. You may want to practice the Examen each evening around the dining table or at a time when all are home for the night before your children go to bed. It can be a bonding time for families that is well worth the effort.

The Children's Examen

1. What time or event today are you most grateful (thankful/happy)?
(Initially, you may have to name a few things in a young child's day to help them catch on to the practice for #1 and #2.)
2. For which moment are you least grateful?
3. How did you show love today?
(For very young children, you may ask additional questions. Ex.: Who did you share with today? Who did you help today? It won't be long before they understand the question and can reflect and respond without your assistance.)
4. What was one time your actions or behavior were negative or you withheld showing kindness? (You might ask: Was there a time you did not share today? Was there a time you said a hurtful word or did not help?)
5. Briefly give thanks for this time of reflection and sharing and for God teaching each of you to be more loving. End with a blessing & words of encouragement.



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading

A Gift Taken For Granted

Catholic schools blossomed in the United States in the early 20th century as a way of equipping young Catholics to deal with rampant anti-Catholicism. And as the Church in the United States observed Catholic Schools Week from Jan. 27-Feb. 2 this year, it's good that Catholics, especially parents of school-age kids, remember that this resource is there to assist them in their responsibility to teach and form their children.

Catholic schools are a source of catechesis, not only for the students who attend them, but for entire families, with parents, grandparents and others benefitting from the experience.

An entire system of Catholic institutions expressly built for the purpose of serving children. Nearly 20 percent of the 2 million students currently enrolled in Catholic schools are not Catholic (per data from the National Catholic Educational Association), one can surmise that only a slim minority of U.S. Catholics even takes advantage of the offerings of Catholic schools. And with so many non-Catholic students enrolled in them, Catholic schools provide an evangelizing element to many young people who would otherwise never have heard the Gospel.

For Catholic and non-Catholic students alike, Catholic education leaves an indelible mark, not only in terms of the quality of the education received, but in terms of the personal values one can't shake, even when a person journeys far away from those roots. Students are exposed to the values of the Faith, something evident in widespread participation in pro-life marches, service projects and other initiatives. Students benefit from the models of service provided by teachers, administrative staff, chaplains, campus ministers and others who walk the path of faith alongside them and contribute deeply to the Catholic character of their educational environment. Catholic schools foster vocations by forming young men and women who understand their faith, are serious about it, and who love the Church and wish to serve it more deeply.

This is all an incredible gift. Though human nature is to take good things for granted, Catholics should not take Catholic schools for granted, in good times or in bad.

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

Knights of Columbus sponsored

VALENTINE'S DAY DINNER & DANCE

A poster for a Valentine's Day Dinner & Dance. It features a red background with silhouettes of a couple dancing. Text on the poster includes: "February 9th Doors open at 6 PM", "The dance of Love", and "For more info & to purchase Tickets Contact Vince Morelli or Joe Affuso".

February 9th
Doors open
at 6 PM

The dance
of Love

For more info & to purchase Tickets
Contact Vince Morelli or Joe Affuso

LECTOR MINISTRY REFRESHER SESSIONS

Our parish's recent Divine Ministry Assembly on January 12, 2019 focused on the ministries involved in the Mass with the Lector Ministry being just one of six of them.

As those of you who were present heard, across the board, it was felt all 6 of our parish Liturgical ministries should offer refresher training.

To complete the Lector refresher training before Lent starts, two Lector refresher sessions have been planned.

Please select one of the two dates below to attend Lector refresher training.

- Saturday, February 23, 2019 - at 10 a.m. in the sanctuary of the Church.
- Wednesday, February 27, 2019 - at @ 9:15 a.m. in the sanctuary, immediately following morning Mass

*If you are not able to attend either one, please let me know what dates you might be available beginning Feb. 21, so that I can meet with you individually.

Kindly respond to Anne Slifer by Wed, January 30th via email at: anne.slifer@gmail.com



UPDATE FOR OUR ALTAR SERVER MINISTRY

*Attention Parents & Guardians
of our parish Altar Servers –*

We urgently need your support!

Although we have close to 20 names on our parish list of trained Altar Servers, we find ourselves struggling to fill the Altar Server slots for our 5PM & 8AM Masses.

We are in dire need of Altar Servers for our 5pm Mass!

Currently our 8AM Mass is served repeatedly by the same 5 children. *Thank you to these families, you know who you are.*

What you can do to help!

1. **Be Flexible:** This may mean that you will have to take them to serve at a Mass time you ordinarily do not attend from time to time.
2. **Be Diligent:** Look at the Ministry schedule on page 5 of our bulletin each week. Please be sure to show up when your child is scheduled or find a replacement for them. If you see the words, "NOT FILLED" or "NEED VOLUNTEERS" for an upcoming Mass, please help if at all possible! Call our parish office or go to the Ministry Schedule Portal and sign up for the "open slot."
3. **Prepare Your Child:** During your child's training, they were given a Handbook to take home and use as a guide for their service in this ministry. Since the age of our servers range between 9 & 12 years old, they need your supervision. Please re-read this Handbook with your child before they come to serve. Check to see if your child is in proper attire as outlined in the Handbook. And please remind them of the importance of their reverence when in the Sanctuary.
If you need another copy of the Altar Server Handbook, please call the parish office or send an email request to prep@stjohnsottsville.org

You will be notified as soon as the Altar Server Refresher Training is scheduled.

Thank you & God bless our Altar Servers!



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, Charles Fees, Jr., John Finn, Antonino Fioretta, Vincent Fioretta, Patricia Fite, Crystal Fleck, Sarah Fleck, Thomas Fleck, Herman Fleck, Claire Fratrick, 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, 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.

**February 9th & 10th
5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5 PM	Jim Black Joan Black Jackie Litzenberger	Patti Keyser	NOT FILLED NEED VOLUNTEERS	Ordinary Time
Sunday 8 AM	Renee Moyer Kevin Murphy Weez Roney Ron Watson	Kathy Fetter	Joseph Fetter Natalie Nice Violet Williams	Kate Minster Sue Rogers
Sunday 10:30 AM	Gerri Belsito Lynn Gamello Dolly Kovacs Donna Sciacca	Tony Luna	Luke Luna Olivia Luna Elia Logaivau	Laura Fleck Sue Rogers

ALL BULLETIN SUBMISSIONS MUST BE RECEIVED by 12:00 pm on the preceding Monday of the intended bulletin date.

Email submissions to prep@stjohnsottsville.org