

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 February 22 - 28, 2021
Daily Mass, 9am Monday – Friday**

Monday: Ernie D'Angelo (*Altar Society*)

Tuesday: Joseph Gervase (*Donna Sciacca*)

Wednesday: Philip A. Lapsley (*John F. Lapsley*)

Wed. 7pm Confession followed by 7:30pm Mass

Thurs.- St. John's: Michael Leinenbach (*Marie Jachno*)

Friday: Catherine Johnson (*Bob & Anne Durison*)

Friday - 7:30pm – Stations of the Cross

Weekend Masses

Sat. 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions

Sun. 8am: Intentions of Carter (*Jim & Joan Black*)

Sun. 10:30am: Joseph Cristiano (*McCord Family*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

The Parish Office is **Closed to
walk-in services.**

Please call 610-847-5521 for service.

MASS COLLECTIONS

Feb. 14th: Envelopes \$ 3,423.00

Parish Giving: *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.**

LEAD US NOT INTO TEMPTATION

Gospel of Mark 1:12-15

In today's Gospel we hear that following Jesus' Baptism, it was the Holy Spirit who led him to the desert where he would be tempted for 40 days.

"The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan.

He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him."

At the risk of muddling metaphors we could say that although Jesus is driven out into the wilderness it is Jesus who is in the driving seat. The will of the Spirit and the will of Jesus are one in the same.

Jesus driven by the Spirit enters the wilderness, the place of demons and wild beasts, but when Jesus emerges from the other side it is he who drives out the demons. He who liberates those bound to slavery by being possessed. But this spiritual warfare frames the public ministry of Jesus as he dies the death of the spotless lamb to drive out the bondage of all sin and death once for all -- the righteous for the unrighteous, so that he may lead us to God.

When we pray as Jesus taught us, *"Our Father who art in Heaven...Thy will be done."* Are we really ready for God's will to be done? Are we ready and willing to be led by the Spirit of God, no matter where that may take us?

In the same prayer we pray, *"and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil."* To follow Christ is to be led by his Spirit, to be driven by his spirit to be possessed by his Spirit.

This is Lent, we put ourselves to the test, we put ourselves in temptations way.

We take a hard look at how we live, we seek out those things that have taken possession of our lives and then we drive them out.

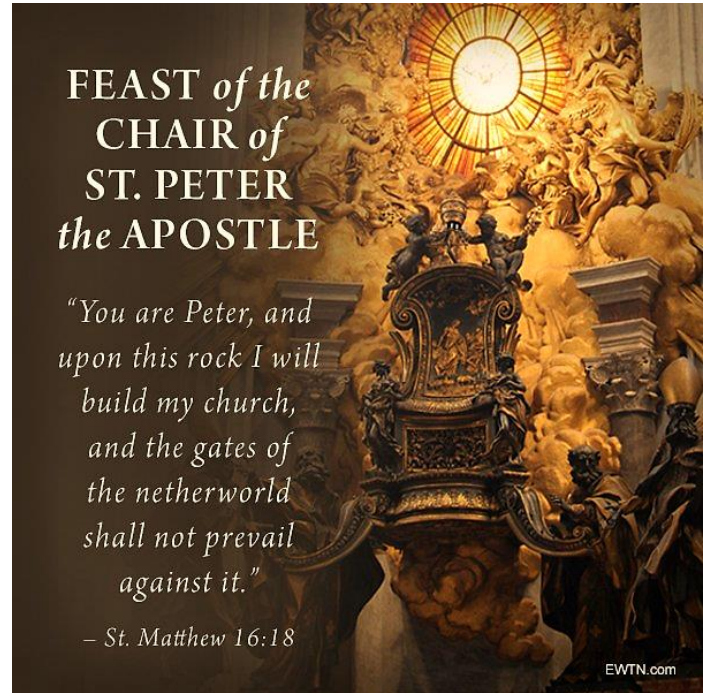
We purge ourselves of those things which interfere with our freedom in following Christ in order to be possessed fully by him. We do not lose our free will by being possessed by the Spirit but rather surrender our free will to that of God's will.

Now that is true freedom!

FEAST of the CHAIR of ST. PETER the APOSTLE

*"You are Peter, and
upon this rock I will
build my church,
and the gates of
the netherworld
shall not prevail
against it."*

– St. Matthew 16:18



The feast of the Chair of St. Peter in Rome, began in the fourth century. It was held on Jan. 18, as that was believed to be the day when Peter gave his first homily in Rome. At some point before the 16th-century Protestant revolt, the feast was combined with the feast of St. Peter's Chair in Antioch.

In 1962, Pope John XXIII combined the two feasts into one, which is the feast of the Chair of St. Peter, held Feb. 22 each year. On this feast day, the universal Church acknowledges that St. Peter was the first Pope and that his mission continues through the Holy Father today. That mission is to care for the people of God; to carry on the customs, rituals, teachings and truths of Jesus; and to uphold the unity of His Church. The Church proclaims that the authority given to St. Peter by Our Lord has been handed down to Peter's successors for the past 2,000 years. Among the laity, it symbolizes an unspoken confidence that the Church of Jesus does not change from age to age; that the truths of the Gospel still form the basis of our faith; that these eternal truths are reflected in every Catholic parish and in every Mass. It is a confidence that the leader of our Church adheres to and will never deny the precepts and principles of the Church of Jesus. We firmly believe that we are part of the mystical body of Christ, a holy people, a holy priesthood.

In the late fourth century, St. Jerome wrote to Pope Damasus I: *"I follow no leader but Christ and join in communion with none but Your Blessedness, that is, with the chair of Peter. I know that this is the rock on which the Church has been built. Whoever eats the Lamb outside this house is profane. Anyone who is not in the Ark of Noah will perish when the flood prevails."*



† TEACH the CHILDREN †

Would you like to observe Lent with your kids?

It seems like a very adult thing to celebrate, but it is possible to make Lent meaningful for children as well using these Lent activities for families.

The three pillars of Lent are:

- prayer
- fasting
- almsgiving

These three practices are to help us grow in holiness, and kids can participate in all three, to various degrees.

Almsgiving: Since kids don't typically have a lot of money of their own, encourage them to think of ways they give of themselves to others. Eat lunch with someone you don't know at school, play with someone you don't usually do at recess, make your siblings bed each day, do extra chores around the house, offer to help your teacher clean up the classroom, offer to help an elderly, handicapped, or sick neighbor.

Fasting: Talk to each child individually so there is no peer pressure or intimidation. You want this sacrifice to come from their heart. Talk to them about the great sacrifice Jesus gave for us. Then let them think about it and come to you with their own idea.

Prayer: Sure many children pray but what you want to do is to suggest is something new. Praying the Stations of the Cross; the Divine Mercy chaplet; read a chapter from one of the books of the Bible each day before bed. Using the Prayer List from your parish bulletin have them pray for the healing of a different person by name each day.

Help them make a prayer space in their room where they can kneel and talk to God each day.

Bring your child to confession frequently to help them develop a habit of confessing our sins & asking our Lord for mercy & forgiveness.



THE REGINA ACADEMY
at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST
Knowing ~ Loving ~ Serving

Students Prepare for the 11th Annual Regina Academies Declamation Contest

While these competitions date from at least ancient Roman times and were once a common feature in schools across the nation, they have largely disappeared in the last 50 years.

Declamation contests feature elementary and middle school students reciting from memory large portions of text — poetry, historic speeches, literature. The student uses feeling, inflection, facial gestures and body movement to impress upon the audience what is being said.

And while they've largely fallen by the wayside, thanks to the area's Regina Academies, they're not a completely dead art form.

The system of five independent schools offers a classical education in which the students learn reasoning, logic and critical thinking skills as well as a mastery of reading, writing and mathematics. Latin and Greek are also part of the core curriculum.

"We understand that having the confidence to present and defend your ideas in public creates leaders who will someday improve both our church and our society."

After all, "leaders in business and technology are rarely the highest IQ people but rather those who can express their ideas and get others to follow."

February 26th - RASJB Declamation

March 12th - All Regina Academies Declamation Contest

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

www.rasjb.org
610-847-5523



CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL PARTNERS IN HOPE

The Archdiocese of Philadelphia's most important fundraiser, Catholic Charities Appeal, gives 'joy, hope and strength,' says Archbishop Perez, he is asking the faithful to "look deep into (their) hearts" to aid "those who have been so deeply affected by COVID." It benefits hundreds of thousands of people through numerous organizations and ministries throughout the five-county Archdiocese serving thousands of our most vulnerable people. The beneficiaries of the Catholic Charities Appeal focus on five key areas:

Education; Social Services; Evangelization; Parish and Spiritual Life; Clergy; and Local Mission Activities.

Become a Partner in Hope and make an impact all year round! To make your donation online, visit:

<https://www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org/>



Free Marriage Enrichment Seminar

The Marriage in Christ seminar is about fostering friendship with God and with our spouse, in and through the power of the Holy Spirit.

The format of the Marriage in Christ At Home Seminar will get you started with making changes a little at a time. You will learn about tools to keep your relationship moving in the right direction well beyond the end of the seminar.

A great activity for married couples to do together during Lent—from your home, at your pace. MarriageinChrist.com is an easy to use online program with video presentations, a downloadable workbook, discussion starters etc. It is simple, practical and fun! Just 5 sessions.

Free for couples who register by March 31 (\$40 value). For more information or to register visit: <https://marriageinchrist.com/>

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS 4545
FR. STOMMEL COUNCIL**
Is sponsoring the



"BIG CASH RAFFLE"

300 Chances
\$50.00 per Chance
Winning Draw on Dec. 4, 2021
Cash Prizes of:
\$5,000.00
\$3,000.00
\$1,000.00

To purchase your "Chance" to WIN BIG, contact:
Vince Morelli (215) 399-6025
Mike Kirk (215) 870-4140

DIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA MISSION YOUTH



Holy Week Missions 2021

Age 15+

Our biggest mission of the year is just around the corner! Save the date to come and encounter Christ for a whole week of missions leading up to the Easter Vigil. We will be doing Mission Youth evangelization and outreach simultaneously with hundreds of other cities around the world! There will be a week-long mission Mar 28 - April 3, as well as a 3-day and single day mission option. See you there! For more information or to register, visit <https://missionyouthphilly.com/>

Ministry Schedule for: **Friday, Feb. 26th & 27th – Stations of the Cross**
February 27th & 28th – Second Sunday of Lent
Wednesday, March 3rd 7:30pm

Ministry Schedule:	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Stations of the Cross Fri. Feb. 26th 7:30pm	N/A	N/A	OPEN	Denny Litzenberger Sue Rogers
SATURDAY 5pm	Joe Cegielski	Helene Bell	Julia Byers Juliet Meyers	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8am	Donna Nice	Jeanne Keller	Alexander Nice Natalie Nice	Patty Leidner Sue Rogers
SUNDAY 10:30am	Jim Black	Ward Van Haute	Audrey Van Haute Max Van Haute	Ordinary Time
Wed. March 3rd 7:30pm	Marion Wolf	OPEN	OPEN	N/A



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

* New Name Added

NEW CYCLE: Dec. 1st, 2020 – March 1st, 2021

To RENEW or to ADD a name to our prayer list, please call the parish office.



OUR SICK:

Roger Bahnck Sr., Roger Bahnck, Jr., Tara Bahnck, John Becker, Loretta Bodisch, Katie Carty, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, MaryAnn Hauber, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Kathie Mandra, Roseann McCarty, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Nancy Moreno, Jeff Olimpo, Gerry Pacitti, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Barbara Sabbath, Pete Shultz, Sr., Steve & Wendy Snyder, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer, Christine Zdanowicz, and all those afflicted by the Coronavirus.

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.