

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 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 January 11 - 17, 2021 Daily Mass Monday – Friday at 9am

Monday: John Przyuski (*Mary Miller*)
Tuesday: Ernie D'Angelo (*Florinda D'Angelo*)
Wednesday: Elizabeth R. Lapsley (*John F. Lapsley Jr.*)
Thursday: Intentions of Mike Schmerbek (*Jim & Joan Black*)
Friday: William Awe (*Michael & Jeanne O'Shea*)

Weekend Masses

Sat. 5pm: William Freeh (*Bob & Anne Durison*)
Sun. 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sun. 10:30am: Ernie D'Angelo (*Janet Reidler & Family*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS

During this time of heightened caution against the spread of the virus, the Parish Office will remain **Closed to Walk-In Service.** Please call ahead to schedule an appointment.

MASS COLLECTIONS

Dec. 20th: Envelopes \$ 4,413.00
Parish Giving \$ 2,796.00
Dec. 25th: Envelopes \$ 12,973.00
Parish Giving \$ 4,030.00
Dec. 27th: Envelopes \$ 5,952.00
Parish Giving \$ incl. with Dec. 25th
Jan. 1st: Envelopes \$ 758.00
Jan. 3rd: Envelopes \$ 3,893.00
Parish Giving \$ 4,295.00

Thank you for your generosity!

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE

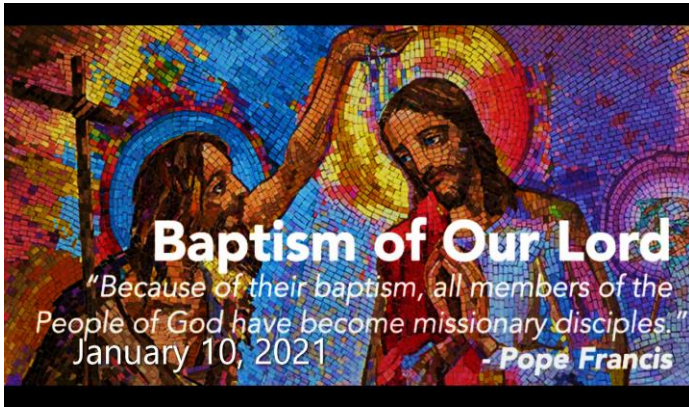
Bedminster, PA

"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.



St. Mark's gospel is very short. If you sit down to read it out loud, you'll finish it in thirty-five to forty minutes. It's known as the no frills gospel because it reflects very few detailed descriptions.

It may seem abrupt, yet everything in this very short gospel is to bring us to the point. And, of course, the point is this: **that the baptism of Jesus is our baptism. And our baptism is a baptism into Jesus. And, because we are baptized into Jesus, we are one with Jesus.**

He has walked into the water to show that he is one with the baptism of John which is one of repentance, people coming back, going into the Jordan and washing themselves clean of all of their sins and readying themselves for the gift of the Holy Spirit.

And Jesus, who did not sin but had a great need for uniting himself with all of humanity — the burden of all the sin and wars and desolation and awful things that have happened down through the centuries — he carries that with him. He will be one with human beings, sharing in their greatness, but also in their grief. And so it is he does that, so that walking out of the water, he who has accepted our humanity, shares with us his divinity. He is the Son, and we are the sons and daughters of the Father. He is the one that his Father looks down upon and He says, **“You are my beloved Son; with you I am well pleased.”**

And He says that to each and every one of us, for there is no separating Jesus from his disciples. He has come to make us sons of God and daughters of God, he has come to make us his brothers and sisters, and he has come to give us a share in what he has come to do, which is to heal and to save, to care and to love.

This is a very difficult concept to understand: **that there is no separation between the Father's love of Jesus, and of Jesus's love of the Father, and our love of Jesus and our love of the Father, and the Spirit, which is the living dynamic force of that love. It falls to us as our inheritance.**

An introduction to the *Baptism of the Lord* by Roger Keeler (a friend of the couple he will now describe to you)

“She wore a lavender cashmere sweater. A single strand of pearls matching her earrings rested elegantly in its folds. Her hair was carefully coiffed, make-up freshly applied, perfume sweet and subtle. She smiled at her husband tenderly holding her hand. He smiled back at her, eyes questioning, seeking a flicker of recognition.

“‘She doesn’t make connections much any more,’ he whispered. ‘It’s a terrible disease, Alzheimer’s.’ He wiped away another tear that traced its way down his cheek.

“He dresses her, does her hair and applies her make-up. He reads the papers to her and shares stories of their grandchildren’s latest accomplishments and endless discoveries. He feeds her the breakfast that is delivered to her room at eight, and ensures she eats the lunch that arrives at noon.

“‘You are my child, the beloved; with you I am well pleased.’ God the Father spoke these words to the Son. The same words are spoken to us by the Father on the day of our baptism: each of us held in divine tenderness, clothed in dignity, anointed with oil for service, witness and belonging.

“His care for her is more than simple duty. Grounded in vows long ago uttered in Christian faith, he sees beyond her Alzheimer’s to the precious child of God she is, fully deserving of respect, affection, care, attention, and the dignity that God intends for all his children.”

Today, as we think of our own baptism and the dignity that we have been given, we wonder if it would be possible to see each other as God sees us, to care for each other as God cares for us, to sacrifice for each other as God sacrifices for us.

From the archives of Father Denis J. Hanly
Maryknoll Missionary - 11th January 2009



THE POWER OF FAITH & HOPE IN A TIME OF UNCERTAINTY

I recall back in August many of us were hopeful that come the New Year, we would be able to resume in class learning. I am sorry to say this is not possible and the rest of the 2021 PREP school year will remain Virtual.

I pray that we all remain hopeful and place our trust in the Lord. ***"Faith" is the substance of things hoped for...."***

In 1 Corinthians 13:13 we read, ***"So faith, hope, love remain, these three; but the greatest of these is love."***

With Christmas still fresh in our hearts and minds we recall that night over 2,000 years ago, when ***"Love Came Down" to all of us. For God is Love.***

In today's Gospel reading we are invited to the **Baptism of our Lord (Mark 1: 7-11).**

This is a pivotal point in the life of Christ, as it is in the life of the Catholic Church, this is where Jesus' ministry on earth begins, and the road to our salvation began.

Parents when you sought to have your children Baptized in the Catholic Church, you gave them the gift being reborn as a child of God. For it is through our baptism that we are changed, given a new and glorious hope."

"The Second Vatican Council tells us that the Church herself is a *'sacrament, a grace-filled sign which makes Christ's saving work present in history, through the power of the Holy Spirit.'*

As the first of the Church's seven sacraments, baptism gives us new birth in Christ, it makes us sharers in the mystery of his death and resurrection, grants the forgiveness of sin and brings us new freedom as God's children and members of his Church."

We dive into the inexhaustible source of life; we come from the death of Jesus so we can live a new life of communion with God.

"Our baptism has changed us, given us a new and glorious hope, and empowered us to bring God's redeeming love to all, particularly the poor, in whom we see the face of Christ."



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



**Celebrate Catholic Schools Week
2021
January 31 – February 6**

Let us show you what makes
**The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist,
the best choice when families are looking to
find the right school for their children.**

From January 31 to February 6, 2021, we will
host a *traditional* Celebrate Catholic
Schools Week.

Schools typically observe the week with
Masses, assemblies and other activities for
students, families, parishioners and
community members to celebrate and
congratulate.

**Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director**
www.rasjb.org
610-847-5523

ALTAR SERVER TRAINING

Due to the pandemic we have temporarily put the training of new Altar Servers on hold.



Although we do not have a specific date at this time for when training will resume, we are now forming a list of names for those interested in training once we are able.

Who is Eligible?

- Boys and girls in the 4th grade and up are invited to sign up to serve in this ministry.
- Have received your Sacraments of First Reconciliation and First Holy Communion.
- Attend Mass regularly.
- Attend Confession and receive Communion regularly.

What does an Altar Server Do?

- You assist the Priest during Mass by bringing him sacred vessels used in the Liturgy of the Eucharist. And you ring the bells during the Consecration of the Eucharist.
- You are a leader for the congregation during the Mass, they follow what you do.

Parents, if your child is eligible and interested in training for this ministry, please send an email to Donna Sciacca at prep@stjohnsottsville.org. Include your child's name, grade, school, and your contact information.

How to respond to Jesus' mandate, "Go, make disciples"

"For Your Discernment" a Zoom Webinar Series on Parish Evangelization.

Wed, Jan 20 ~ 1-2 PM The Evangelical Catholic

Speakers: Jessica Walters and Maria Malone,
Mary, Mother of the Redeemer, North Wales

Wed, Jan 27 ~ 1-2 PM Catholic Christian Outreach

Speakers: Gina Mesko, St. Joseph, Aston, Laura Kerr, St. Katharine of Siena, Wayne and Paola Herrera, Our Lady of Guadalupe, Doylestown
Each webinar is a stand-alone event.

These webinars will be recorded. Even if you can't attend live, please register and a recording will be emailed to you. Please register for each webinar separately at:

phillyevang.org/events



The Blessed Virgin Mary is the secret to all great evangelizing. While on our own we might participate beautifully in the Lord's work of converting the hearts of some people, the Blessed Virgin has been known to convert entire continents. The story of Our Lady of Guadalupe is a wonderful example of how quickly and easily she brings people to her Son.

Rather than rely on our own efforts to make disciples of Jesus Christ, let us turn ourselves, our ministry, and our parish over to Mary, asking her to do what she does best – quickly and efficaciously convert hearts and bring them into deep intimacy with Jesus.



Please join us in praying for our two Catechumens as they journey on the path leading them into Full Communion with the Catholic Church

Stephanie (Rothenberg) Robbins
Allison (Wright) Reidler

RITE OF WELCOMING

Sunday, Jan. 24th during the 10:30am Mass

RITE OF SENDING

Sunday, Feb. 14th during the 10:30am Mass

RITE OF ELECTION

Saturday, Feb. 20th – 3pm at the Cathedral Basilica of Sts. Peter & Paul, Philadelphia

Ministry Schedule for:

January 16th & 17th – The Second Sunday in Ordinary Time

Ministry Schedule:				
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5pm	Joel Roney	Anne Slifer	Julia Byers Juliet Myers	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SUNDAY 9am	Nancy Kaczinski	Megan Gilbert	Brigid Froman Danny Froman	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
SUNDAY 10:30am	Jim Black	Patti Keyser	Leighana Fleck Joe Gonzales-Fleck	Ordinary Time



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, 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, 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.