

### 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 - Thurs: 8:35am / Fri: 9am

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.

*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. 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 for the Week of June 29 – July 5, 2020 Daily Mass 8:35am in the Main Church**

**Monday:** George & Myrtle Rick (*Harold Rick*)

**Tuesday:** Robert Benton (*Patty Benton*)

**Wednesday:** Tom Fink (*Janet Reidler & Family*)



**Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament**  
immediately follows Mass  
closes at 7pm.

**Thursday:** Jack Glancey (*Maxine Vogan*)

**Friday:** Charles E. Fees (*Charles J. Fees*)



**Saturday, July 4<sup>th</sup> – INDEPENDENCE DAY**

**5pm: Parishioners' Intentions**

**Sunday**

**8am: Kathleen Lapsley (*John Lapsley, Jr.*)**

**10:30am: Tom High (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)**

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### **Parish Office Summer Hours**

**Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm (closed for lunch 12-2pm)**

**Friday 9am – 1pm.**

**Monday, July 6<sup>th</sup>: Holiday - CLOSED**

Face coverings should be in place before you enter the office. ***We appreciate your support and cooperation during this time. Thank you***

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**Ministry Meetings** may resume with some safety precautions in place.

**The SJB Narthex Mtg. Room, Marian Room, and the Chapel are not open for meetings at this time.**

Guidelines were emailed to Ministry Leaders. If you need to schedule a ministry meeting, please contact the parish office.

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### **Weekly Mass Collection for**

**Sunday, June 21, 2020**

**Envelopes \$5,856.00**

**Parish Giving \$2,015.09**

***Thank you for your generosity and for your ongoing support.***

## TO LIVE AS A DISCIPLE Gospel of Matthew 10: 37-42

Two weeks ago we heard Jesus commission the twelve apostles and last week we heard some of His instructions to them. This week we hear the conclusion of His instructions.

In Matthew 10:37 Jesus uses the words, “not worthy of me,” this warning talks of a great sacrifice many will face in picking up our cross to follow Him.

The **decision** to follow Jesus and become a member of His covenant family may cause a break in the bonds within our own families. In asking us to pick up our cross, Jesus is inviting His disciples to follow Him in the announcing of the Kingdom, in His healing ministry, in His suffering, and ultimately in His glory. Jesus' command to be willing to take up one's cross to follow Him is essential to being a true disciple – so much so that it is repeated twice in each of the Synoptic Gospels (Mt 10:38 and 16:24; Mk 8:34 and 10:21; Lk 9:23 and 14:27).

The point Jesus is making, is this... Jesus carries the word of God the Father to the disciples, and His disciples will carry His word out into the world. Therefore, whoever receives the disciples is in effect is receiving Jesus, and since Jesus' is from the Father, those who receive the disciples are receiving the Father and will be rewarded by Him. Jesus defines what living in “righteousness” means in His Sermon on the Mount, in living the Beatitudes.

Jesus goes on to tell us, “*And whoever gives only a cup of cold water to one of these little ones to drink because he is a disciple, amen, I say to you, he will surely not lose his reward.*”

These “little ones” are Jesus' disciples who serve the Father by announcing the coming of the kingdom.

The reward of “eternal life” is promised to those who pick up their cross, live a righteous life, and continue on the path of the Great Commission – to carry the Word of God out into the world.

## FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE, Bedminster, PA “A Quiet Country Retreat”



Offering Day & Overnight  
Retreats  
for Small Groups & Individuals

**Monday, 7pm**

Adoration & Prayers

**Wednesday, 9:30am**

Adoration & Prayers

**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12pm**

Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10am**

**Rosary, Confession, Mass & Lunch**

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### MSC SISTERS COMMUNITY NEWS



Unite with us for NUN RUN 2020

The past several months have taught us many valuable lessons.

Among them is the lesson that community is not a static thing; we can be communal whether we are together or apart. Unite our MSC Community by supporting Nun Run 2020. Although we anticipate being together on 9/19/20, we also are prepared to be “together apart” should COVID-19 circumstances dictate, we will:

- change all registrations to virtual registrations;
- mail event t-shirts to all registrants and sponsors;
- ask that you run/walk on your own - but in unity with us - on or around 9/19/20.

Sponsorships will be honored as described in the event brochure excluding day-of announcements and signage.

For details and options, visit: [MSCreading.org](http://MSCreading.org)



Access & Download forms from the PREP page on our parish website at [www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org)

### WELCOME to our New Students



If you have a child entering **the 1st grade in September**, or if you are **new in our parish** and have a child in **grades 1 - 7**, please call the parish office to register them in our Parish Religious Education Program.

**Volunteers** are always welcome! If you would like to assist in our program, please contact Donna Sciacca at the parish office. Diocese, Federal, and State Child Clearances are required.

Payment plans are available to families who may be experiencing financial difficulty at this time. Call the office to set up an appointment with Donna Sciacca, DRE at 610-847-5521.



The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

*Knowing - Loving - Serving - Leading*

The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist is now accepting **Registrations for the 2020/2021 School Year.**

**\$1500 transfer grants are available for students transferring from another school.**

***Why register your child for our school?***

**Here are just some of the wonderful benefits:**

- ~ Joy Filled Authentic Catholic Community
- ~ **Classical** (not Common Core) Catholic Curriculum
- ~ Protective and Nurturing Environment that allows ***Children to Become Who God Intended Them to Be***
- ~ Weekly Mass and Adoration
- ~ Full Day Pre K and Kindergarten
- ~ Transfer Grants Available
- ~ Busing from All Local School Districts

**To register your child now, or for more information, visit our ADMISSIONS PAGE on our website at [www.rasjb.org](http://www.rasjb.org)**

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School  
Mrs. Jackie Lenox, Asst. Head of School  
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director  
[www.rasjb.org](http://www.rasjb.org)



## Freedom to Worship

from USCCB

### **“A Basic Duty Every Human Person Owes To God is Regular Worship”**

**On December 7, 1965, the Second Vatican Council approved *Dignitatis humanae*, the Declaration on Religious Liberty.**

The document roots religious freedom in the perennial teaching of the Church on human dignity. It teaches that religious freedom is the cornerstone of a society that promotes human dignity; it is a fundamental human right, which follows on the duty of all people to seek the truth about God.

Excerpt from the Encyclical Letter *Redemptor Hominis* of Pope St. John Paul II

*"Certainly the curtailment of the religious freedom of individuals and communities is not only a painful experience but it is above all an attack on man's very dignity, independently of the religion professed or of the concept of the world which these individuals and communities have. The curtailment and violation of religious freedom are in contrast with man's dignity and his objective rights. The Council document mentioned above states clearly enough what that curtailment or violation of religious freedom is. In this case we are undoubtedly confronted with a radical injustice with regard to what is particularly deep within man, what is authentically human." (No. 17)*

*"Nowadays it is sometimes held, though wrongly, that freedom is an end in itself, that each human being is free when he makes use of freedom as he wishes, and that this must be our aim in the lives of individuals and societies. In reality, freedom is a great gift only when we know how to use it consciously for everything that is our true good. Christ teaches us that the best use of freedom is charity, which takes concrete form in self-giving and in service. For this "freedom Christ has set us free" and ever continues to set us free. The Church draws from this source the unceasing inspiration, the call and the drive for her mission and her service among all mankind. The full truth about human freedom is indelibly inscribed on the mystery of the Redemption." (No. 21)*

## Decline in Confession Clogs Church's Arteries

by Meghan Cokeley

*"Sin is like spiritual cholesterol, and the arteries (of the church) are clogged,"* "This is a hidden spiritual reality, but it actually explains why there's so little life."

The lines for confession have been shrinking for years. The data that really shocked Meghan Cokeley, Evangelization Dir for the Diocese, came from a recent five-year study by the Malvern-based Catholic Leadership Institute (CLI), which surveyed some 17,000 practicing Catholics from the archdiocesan area.

The faithful who avoid confession should be reassured that "conversion is not condemnation," but rather a call to healing and hope in Christ. "Seventy-five percent of them reported that they go to confession once or twice a year or never, and that 'never' portion was almost 30%." "These are regular Mass-goers ... our ministry leaders, parish council members, finance council people."

"The Gospel is conversion, turning away from sin and being faithful to the Gospel, part of the problem, is due to "a very comfortable Catholicism" that prevails in parishes and in the overall culture. There's just this logic that somehow ... Jesus exists to make me feel good about myself. That kind of individualism and self-affirmation have profound social consequences, said Cokeley. If we ourselves aren't dealing with our sin regularly, we're not going to have this healthy responsiveness to the evil that we're seeing around us.

Although they're not in line for confession, many Catholics – about 89%, according to Pew's 2015 study, believe sin exists. But fear and shame often keep faithful away from the sacrament. Conversion is not condemnation. We have to start talking about the call to conversion as an expression of Christ's love, that he wants our burdens pulled off of us, and he wants our chains broken. Addressing sin is an "unbinding of the heart," which is why the pivotal aspect of the sacrament is "not the confessing, but the receiving of grace to break the chain, to walk away from it." When the priest utters those words, 'I absolve you' – that word literally means to break. So when he speaks those words, the chains are broken, and it doesn't have anything to do with how we feel about it. It actually happens."

A reawakening to the need for regular confession is crucial for the spread of the Gospel. When we're introducing people to the person of Christ, it has to be the real Jesus."

For both first-time and lifelong penitent, the sacrament of reconciliation is one of healing and hope, she said.

Encountering Christ is a "radical, beautiful call ... that really fulfills the deepest desires of our hearts," said Cokeley.

Ministry Schedule for: JULY 4<sup>th</sup> & 5, 2020 – Fourteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
<b>Saturday 5pm</b>	Joel Roney	Jane Ferry		Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
<b>Sunday 8am</b>	Renee Moyer	Helene Bell		No Music
<b>Sunday 10:30am</b>	Leona Russell	Tony Luna	Olivia Luna	No Music



## PLEASE PRAY FOR...



**June 1<sup>st</sup> – Sept. 1<sup>st</sup>**

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, Ross Brinkert, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Maddie Gardner, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, MaryAnn Hauber, Valerie Korbar, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Maria Middleton, Nancy Moreno, James O'Hanlon, Gerry Pacitti, Pete Shultz, Sr., Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer.

**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.