

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.*

Weekly Mass Schedule

Morning Prayer (Chapel) Mon. – Fri. at 8:15am

Daily Mass: Mon – Thurs. 8:35am (Chapel);

Friday, 9am (Church)

Wed. 8am (Church) Flame of Love Rosary

Wed. 3pm (Chapel) Divine Mercy Chaplet *(during Lent only)*

Wed. 7pm – Confession / 7:30pm Mass

Friday 7:30PM Stations of the Cross

Following daily morning Mass:

Mon: Prayers from “Monday for Maria”

Tues.-Thurs: Devotional Prayer to St. Peregrine

Monthly Friday Devotional prayers (follows Mass):

1st Friday: Devotion of the Sacred Heart of Jesus

2nd Friday: Devotion of St. Peregrine

3rd Friday: Devotion of St. Nicholas

4th Friday: Devotion of St. John the Baptist

5th Friday: Devotion of St. Joseph

Mass Intentions for March 23 - 29, 2020

Monday: John Joseph Koerber *(Jim & Joan Black)*

Tuesday: Kathleen Richards *(Giarrantana Family)*

Wednesday: Barbara Fox *(Jim & Joan Black)*

Thursday: Donald Knight *(Janet Reidler & Family)*

Friday, 9am: John Zdanowicz *(Janet Reidler)*

Saturday

5pm: Lynda Vinyard *(Tony & Janet Souza)*

Sunday

8am: Parishioners' Intentions

10:30am: Mark Hillman *(Twomey Family)*

Meetings this Week

ALL MEETINGS CANCELLED

Weekly Mass Collection for March 15, 2020

Envelopes: \$ 3,587.00

Parish Giving: \$ 1,463.90.00

Thank you for your generosity!

OUR PARISH NEEDS YOUR HELP

EASY as 1...2...3! Electronic Tithing!
No Checks, No Envelopes!
Visit www.stjohnsottsville.org and click on



Sign-up for a weekly or monthly auto-deduction from your checking, savings, or credit card acct.

The Man Born Blind Gospel of John 9: 1-41

is the sixth of the seven signs recounted by St. John that announce the fulfillment of the Old Covenant in the New Covenant and the passing away of the old rites, replaced by the grace and sacraments of Jesus Christ.

The true light has come into the world and He is Jesus.

We receive this light that enlightens mankind when we are baptized. At baptism, we promise to live in the light and give testimony to Him.

But, we must not be prideful in this fact; we must honor and be faithful to our baptismal promises. It is at our baptism that our conversion began. If we were baptized as infants, there came a time when we had acquired the use of reason when we needed to take on personally this act of conversion and surrender to the Lord. But as we should know, just as there are stages of conversion leading to that acceptance of Christ, the conversion continues until the time of our death.

There will be times when we want to cling to the ways of the world and the pressure of our peers. We will be tempted in pride to assert that we know better than God and to do it “our way.” There will be times when we are afraid—afraid of losing acceptance, wealth, prestige, and even what we mistake for love—and we will be tempted to reject the Light of the World. We will be tempted to deny the obvious—the one thing we do know with certainty—and to accept the lies of the evil one.

As the man born blind was cured of his physical blindness, he also underwent a healing of his spiritual blindness. We can see this in how he progressively refers to Jesus, first as “the man called Jesus” then “he is a prophet” then as “from God” and finally when he said, “I do believe, Lord” and worshiped Christ.

Because this man was open to the truth, the darkness gave way to the Light and his spiritual blindness also was healed. Throughout life we too are called to this ever deepening relationship with the Lord, even beyond the point of calling Him Lord and worshipping Him. This conversion must continue to deepen so that our communion with Him will deepen.

The irony of the confrontation between the man and the Pharisees is shared by us in our daily confrontation with the world and our own temptations.

The Pharisees absurdly demanded that this man deny the one thing of which he was certain—that he had been born blind that the Lord had restored to him his sight; they demanded that he accept their spiritual blindness as truth and embrace darkness as light.

We can look to our own encounters with the world and see the times when we are asked to deny the one thing that we know with certainty—the love and grace

of Christ our Savior—and instead we are asked to embrace the sin that this world demands that we mistakenly see as enlightenment sacrificing our own eternal happiness and blessedness for a destructive pleasure and a lie? May we ever cling to the Light that banishes the darkness which is all around us.

When the world, in its own language, twists the meaning of the words of the man whose sight was restored and asks us, *Do you want to become his disciple too?*

Let us shout, unafraid and in loving faithfulness, “We do and we are!”

This man who was supposedly an inferior of the Pharisees was the more enlightened of the two.

And we Christians who are not of the world, but are in the world, are to be the more enlightened of the two.

Cancelled

Parish Lenten Mission & Mass
Wed. & Thurs., March 25th & 26th

Walking with Jesus to Calvary

CANCELLED

Pray the Stations of the Cross

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

Bedminster, PA

“A Quiet Country Retreat”



Offering Day & Overnight
Retreats for Individuals and
Small Groups

ALL ARE WELCOME!

Monday, 7pm

Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday, 9:30am

Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday, 12pm

Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

1st Saturday, 10am

Rosary, Confession, Mass, and Lunch
For more information or directions, please call
Joan Black at 215-536-3508



Dear PREP/CCD Families:

As noted in my email of Friday, March 13, 2020, Archbishop Nelson Perez of the Diocese of Philadelphia, has suspended in classroom religious instruction through and including March 27th.

However, since the CCD is posting updates daily, it is clear that this virus has not yet peaked and a time frame for life to return to some form of normalcy, as we know it, is uncertain.

The health and well being of our students, families, and teachers is a priority. Procedures are now in place to allow for the home schooling of our religious education students for an extended period of time.

Parents, we are here to continue in our role as Catechist, to guide and assist with the homeschooling of your child, enabling them to continue on the faith path they started in September.

You will receive a weekly email from your child's Catechist and or from me, with the specifics of that week's lesson and material of study. We are grateful that the publishers of our various curriculums have provided online lessons, and an assortment of resource aids.

All of our PREP families should have received an email from me with the online links to their child's grade level textbook curriculum.

I will be also sending out online links specifically geared toward the teaching of Holy Week, the Triduum, including activities you may do as a family...such as praying the Stations of the Cross.

Please know that you are all in our prayers and God willing, we will see on another in a very short time.

*God Bless,
Donna Sciacca, DRE*

**ATTENTION
PARISH 2ND GRADE FAMILIES
POSTPONED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**

**FIRST HOLY COMMUNION PARENT MEETING
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT**

Possibly postponed

SACRAMENT OF FIRST HOLY COMMUNION



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 of the Local School Districts

To register your child now, or for more information, visit our website ADMISSIONS PAGE.

You are cordially invited to our upcoming....

**KLS Breakfast & Tour
May 14, 2020 at 8:30am**

Register to attend by visiting our website or contact Amy Mattle for more information.

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School
tkoerber@rasjb.org

Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director
amattle@rasjb.org / 267-424-5762

www.rasjb.org

UPDATE from the...

**ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
OFFICE FOR COMMUNICATIONS**

March 17, 2020

**ARCHBISHOP NELSON J. PÉREZ
ANNOUNCES THE SUSPENSION OF
ALL PUBLIC MASSES IN THE
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
EFFECTIVE MARCH 18, 2020 at 12pm**

Today, the Archdiocese of Philadelphia announced that Archbishop Nelson J. Pérez has suspended all public Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia effective at 12:00 p.m. on Wednesday, March 18th and until further notice.

Last week, the Archbishop dispensed the faithful from the obligation to attend Sunday Mass. Both decisions were made in response to the growing concern over the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) and the directives provided by government and health department officials at the local, state, and national levels. These measures will be re-evaluated pending future developments.

Archbishop Pérez said, “As the Archbishop of Philadelphia, my first priority is to ensure the health and welfare of those entrusted to the pastoral and temporal care of our Church. So, in light of the developing Coronavirus pandemic, a decision has been made to suspend the public celebration of all Masses in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia for the time being.

All of us need to do our part to slow the spread of this illness. Like you, we are monitoring coronavirus developments and look forward to continuing our lives on a more normal basis.

While things may look and feel different during these uncertain times, I want to be very clear that the Catholic Church in Philadelphia is not closing down. It is not disappearing and it will not abandon you. Time and again as our history has proven the Church has risen to meet great challenges and provide a beacon of hope and light.

As your Shepherd, I promise that the Church remains steadfast and is prepared to walk with you and serve you. Neither the Church nor its charitable works will stop. God is always by our side. He never abandons us. I invite you to join me in prayerful solidarity for the intentions of the sick, suffering, and their caregivers as well as government and health officials. With God’s grace and blessing, we

will navigate the difficult waters of this challenge as a united human family, for after all is said and done, we are people of Hope!”

Though public Masses are suspended in all churches in the Archdiocese, the right and need of the faithful to hear the Word of God and celebrate the Sacraments is not put aside. Pastors, along with all those who work with them, will be as attentive as possible to all the spiritual, pastoral, and charitable needs of the people they serve.

Priests will continue to offer the sacrifice of the Holy Mass during this period and to honor all requested Mass intentions.

Churches can remain open as a location for private prayer at the discretion of the pastor. Baptisms, Confessions, Marriages, and Funerals will take place as usual but with due regard for the limitation of participants and reasonable social distancing.

In conjunction with directives already in force in hospitals and institutions, all visits to the sick with Holy Communion, including in private homes, by priests, deacons, and extraordinary ministers of Holy Communion are suspended. In such instances, only priests will be available to celebrate the Sacraments for those in immediate danger of death. In all circumstances, government and health agency directives for group size and social distancing are to be observed as the Archdiocese of Philadelphia strives to meet the pastoral and temporal needs of all those in need.

On Sunday, March 15th, the Archdiocese featured a live streaming broadcast of the 11:00 a.m. Mass on its website and Archbishop Pérez’s Facebook page for the benefit of those wishing to participate in the liturgy remotely. This broadcast will continue each Sunday on an ongoing basis.

Additional information regarding opportunities for prayer and devotions are available on the Archdiocesan website.

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Editor’s Note: For comprehensive information about the pastoral and temporal response of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia to the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, please visit <http://archphila.org/covid19/>.

Ministry Schedule for: **MARCH 28TH & 29TH – FIFTH SUNDAY OF LENT**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	<div style="background-color: red; color: white; text-align: center; padding: 20px;"> <i>ALL MASSES CANCELLED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</i> </div>			
Sunday 8am				
Sunday 10:30am				
Friday April 3rd Marian Stations of the Cross				



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



New 3-Month Cycle. Currently accepting names for our March 1st – June 1st prayer list.
To RENEW a name, or To ADD a new name to our prayer list, **please call the parish office.**

OUR SICK: Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, 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, Steve Salva, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall.

OUR TROOPS: Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, Casey DeLauretis, 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.