

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

ALL MASSES SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE

**OUR CHURCH WILL BE OPEN FOR
PRIVATE PRAYER:**

Weekdays: 8am – 10am

Sundays: 8am – 12noon

Confession by appt. only,
please call 610-847-5521.

**Our 24-hr. Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament
for the month of April, has been cancelled due
to the pandemic restrictions in place.**

Mass Intentions for March 30 – April 5, 2020

Monday: John Joseph Koerber (*Parents of the Regina Academy*)

Tuesday: Jack Glancey (*Joe & Dot Cegielski*)

Wednesday: Lynda Vinyard (*Mir & Pop Pop*)

Thursday: John Zdanowicz (*Kosmin Family*)

Friday, 9am: Doris Walters (*Lisa Simkanin*)

Saturday

Parishioners' Intentions

Sunday

Parishioners' Intentions

Meetings this Week

ALL EVENTS & MEETINGS CANCELLED

Weekly Mass Collection for March 22, 2020

Envelopes: \$2,005.00

Parish Giving: \$1,302.75

Thank you for your generosity!

DURING THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC:

THE PARISH OFFICE is unable to accommodate walk-in requests. If you are in need of service, please call 610-847-5521

THE LORDS PANTRY IS OPEN NORMAL BUSINESS HOURS. NO in-pantry shopping. Pre-bagged items available for curbside pick-up.

THE RAISING OF LAZARUS

Gospel of John 11: 1-45

Unlike the other Gospels, John recounts only a limited number of miracles of Jesus, which he designates as “signs,” a rare term in the other Gospels. The Raising of Lazarus is the sixth of the seven “signs” of the Gospel of John. The signs seem to escalate as the Gospel progresses. The Healing of the Man Born Blind (last Sunday’s reading) was pretty impressive, but raising Lazarus tops it. The Gospel is building toward the seventh and final sign, the Resurrection of Christ. When Jesus hears of the illness of Lazarus, he actually delays his travel to Bethany, because he loves the whole family! So we see that the death and resurrection of Lazarus is a “premeditated” act of Jesus’ love.

By the time Jesus arrives in Bethany, Lazarus has been dead four days. As many have pointed out, the Jewish understanding was that the first three days of death were an intermediate state, in which the soul stayed close to the body. But after three days, death was final. Martha is consistently the more extroverted and proactive of the two sisters. While Mary sits and weeps, Martha goes to meet Jesus, and more or less rebukes him: “Lord, if you had been here, my brother would not have died.” But she is not subtle about what she wants Jesus to do: “Even now I know that whatever you ask of God, God will give you.” Look at her profession of faith in the rest of this dialogue with Jesus, “Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that you are the Christ, the Son of God, the one who is coming into the world!”

In response to Mary’s weeping and that of the other mourners, Jesus becomes “perturbed and troubled.” One of the purposes St. John reported the emotion of Jesus is to stress his sharing in our human nature, including the depth of human emotion. It is often said that the Gospel of John portrays Jesus as most clearly divine among all the Gospels; at the same time, John portrays Jesus in some of the most deeply human moments of his ministry: “Jesus wept.”

The greater miracles are in the realm of the spirit. Though it may not seem so to us, the redemption of the world is a greater act than its creation. The raising of Lazarus, like the previous Lenten gospels from John points to Baptism.

St. Paul says, “We were buried therefore with him by baptism into death, so that as Christ was raised from the dead by the glory of the Father, we too might walk in newness of life.”

AN OPEN LETTER TO OUR PARISHIONERS

Greetings in the Lord!

I pray this email finds you and your loved ones well.

These are truly incredible days as all of us do our part to impede the spread of the Coronavirus. The suspension of public Masses, especially not being able to receive the Eucharist, is for me, the most devastating measure required of us at this point. However, the Church must continue with great zeal and force to bring the Gospel of Christ to this moment and lead us in the praise and worship of almighty God.

Please know that even though public Masses are suspended, Fr. Lucas, and Fr. Tony are offering Mass daily in a private manner with prayers especially for all of you. All of our parish Mass intentions are being honored as well.

An additional disruption for St. John's which is cause of immediate concern, is the sudden loss of our regular means of parish income, which comes directly from our Sunday Mass collections.

During a time when we are forced to stay at home, would you please consider making your weekly offering to our church electronically through the **Parish Giving program**. It is simple, convenient, and most of all secure.

A link to this program is on the landing page of our parish website, www.stjohnsottsville.org. Click on the **PARISH GIVING** tab, and follow the screen prompts.



It's that easy!

Parish Giving is not new to St. Johns; this alternative tithing program has been available to our parish family for over 7 years. Our parishioners who currently subscribe to this program are very pleased with the ease of its use, and the best part is, once you set up your account, nothing else is required of you. No remembering to write out check, no more weekly envelopes. Yes, it is that easy.

We are humbled by your generosity, and Thank you for all the support each of you gives to our parish.

Let us turn to our Lord and to our Blessed Mother Mary for the help we need at this perilous time. Saint John the Baptist pray for us.



TEACH the CHILDREN



PREP AT HOME

As we continue to do our best to settle into the new normal, for you and your child, home schooling catechesis is uncharted territory for many. And we get that. We will continue to be here to assist you for as long as it takes until we can once again come together at PREP.

Last week, each teacher established a line of communication with you, and built a schedule of work they will be sending to you each week. This will assure we keep your child(ren) on track with their religious education studies that began in September.

Please be sure to check your email frequently for a communication from your child's teacher and or from me.

All of our PREP families should have received an email from me with the online links to their child's text book curriculum along with various other resource aids to assist in your home schooling.

I will continue to send our families links and attachments for faith-building activities.

As we approach the holiest time of the year in the Catholic Church, Holy Week and Easter, I am saddened to know that we will not be permitted to celebrate this joyous time together. But in spite of this disruption in our lives, I know that our Lord, Jesus Christ is with us and will lead us through this darkness into the Light.

Per the Archdiocese directives for no person to person contact during this pandemic, we had no recourse other than to postpone the

SACRAMENTS OF: FIRST HOLY COMMUNION CONFIRMATION

until further notice. Please be assured your child will receive their Sacrament. As soon as we receive the go ahead from the Archdiocese a new date will be set.

It is for this reason that we ask you be sure your child continues with their Sacrament preparation by completing all work they are assigned.

If you have any questions, and or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.



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

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

Bedminster, PA

"A Quiet Country Retreat"

**Offering Day & Overnight Retreats for
Individuals and 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 **215-536-3508**



VATICAN ISSUES DECREE FOR HOLY WEEK LITURGIES WITH PANDEMIC RESTRICTIONS

VATICAN CITY — While conferences and meetings can be postponed for months because of the coronavirus pandemic, the liturgies of Holy Week and Easter cannot, with the exception of the chrism Mass, said the Congregation for Divine Worship and the Sacraments.

"By the mandate of the supreme pontiff for the year 2020 only," the congregation issued guidelines March 20 for celebrating the Triduum and Easter liturgies without the presence of the faithful.

"Easter is at the heart of the entire liturgical year and is not simply one feast among others. The Easter triduum is celebrated over the arc of three days, which is preceded by Lent and crowned by Pentecost and, therefore, cannot be transferred to another time," said the "Decree in the Time of COVID-19."

The decree was signed by Cardinal Robert Sarah, prefect of the congregation, and by Archbishop Arthur Roche, secretary.

Because the chrism Mass is not formally part of the Triduum, they said, a bishop can decide to postpone its celebration. Usually the Mass is celebrated in the Holy Week and includes a gathering of all the priests of the diocese to renew their priestly promises. During the Mass, the oils — the chrism — used in the sacraments are blessed by bishop and distributed to the priests to take to their parishes.

Where public Masses have been canceled, the decree said, the bishops, in agreement with their bishops' conference, should ensure that the Holy Week liturgies are celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches. The faithful should be advised of the times for the celebrations, so that they can pray at home at the same time.

"Live — not recorded — televisual or internet broadcasts are helpful," the decree said.

On Holy Thursday, the Mass of the Lord's Supper should be celebrated in the cathedral and in parish churches even without the faithful present, it said. "The faculty to celebrate this Mass in a suitable place, without the people, is granted in an exceptional manner to all priests" this year.

"The washing of feet, which is already optional, is to be omitted" when there are no faithful present, it said. The traditional procession with the Blessed Sacrament at the end of the Mass also is omitted, and the Eucharist is placed directly in the tabernacle.

If there is any way to do so, the decree said, the Liturgy of the Lord's Passion should be celebrated and, among the formal prayers of petition, there should be "a special intention for the sick, the dead, for those who feel lost or dismayed."

For the celebration of the Easter Vigil without the faithful present, it said, the preparation and lighting of the fire is omitted, but the Easter candle is still lit and the "Exsultet" Easter proclamation is sung or recited.

Processions and other expressions of popular piety that are traditional around the world during Holy Week may be transferred to another date, the decree said. It suggested, for example, Sept. 14-15 in connection with the feast of the Exaltation of the Holy Cross.



All Masses suspended.

BLESSED PALMS

will be on tables in the Narthex

for you to pick-up on

Saturday, April 4th - 4pm – 6pm

Sunday, April 5th - 8am – 12pm

from the **METANOIA** series, Episode 8, available to stream live from WILDGOOSE.TV...

Jesus' Power Over the Evil One

There is an evil one, and he desires to destroy us. The evil one is alive today. Although we do not need to be obsessed with the evil one, we need to be aware that he exists. The evil one is active in three areas: the world, the flesh, and the devil. We see images of the evil one in the very beginning of Scripture. However, Jesus confronts the evil one and has authority over him. Jesus has given us a share in his power over the evil one. Every time we resist temptation and respond to grace, we participate in Christ's saving victory over evil. This response to grace is conversion which is God acting in us.

Filming Location: The Mount of Temptation and The Mount of Olives, Jerusalem

Ministry Schedule for: April 4th & 5th – PALM SUNDAY of the LORD'S PASSION

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm				
Sunday 8am	Per the directives of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia ALL MASSES ARE SUSPENDED UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE			
Sunday 10:30am				
Holy Thursday				
Good Friday				
Holy Saturday Easter Vigil				
Easter Sunday				



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.

**PRAY FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS, ESPECIALLY
DOCTORS, NURSES, CAREGIVERS, FIRST RESPONDERS.**

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.