

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.**

We miss seeing you and hope you are all well! We long for the days when we can once again gather at Mass together. Until then, our **Church is open** for you to come in and pray before the Tabernacle:

Mon – Fri: 8am – 10am

Sunday: 8am – 2pm

Please visit our parish website for frequent updates on resources and **to view our weekly Sunday Mass visit** www.stjohnsottsville.org
Our Weekly Collection Basket is at the entrance to the center aisle for you to leave your weekly Mass envelopes or cash offerings.

Confession is by appt. only, and will be held in the main church please call 610-847-5521.

Mass Intentions for May 18 – May 24, 2020

Fr. Lucas and Fr. Tony are praying for you, your family and your parish Mass Intentions during their *Private Mass each day.*

Monday: Jack Glancey (*Peg Trouts*)

Tuesday: Ron Maisenhalter (*Tom & Sue Rogers*)

Wednesday: Lucy Sciacca (*Her Girls*)

ASCENSION OF THE LORD (Thursday)

Friday: Martha Marhalak (*Jan Juchino & Family*)

Saturday 5pm:

Jack Glancey (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)

Sunday 8am:

Parishioners' Intentions

Sunday 10:30am:

Intentions of our parish Widows & Widowers (*a friend*)

Weekly Mass Collections Sunday, May 10, 2020

Envelopes \$3,451.00

Parish Giving \$2,850.00

THANK YOU! *We are truly humbled by your generosity and grateful for your ongoing support to our parish during this challenging time for all of us*

THE PROMISE

Gospel of John 14: 15-21

In today's Gospel, Jesus is preparing His disciples for the day when He will no longer be with them as a physical presence. This is the feast we will celebrate on Ascension Thursday - when we recall the moment when Jesus seemed to part from His disciples - and from the world.

One of the hardest things to do is to part from those we love. Even harder is to let someone go upon whom you have come to rely. They had seen the great things He had done - and found that they shared some of His gift for healing and proclaiming the Kingdom. He had conquered death - and they assumed He would be with them forever.

They must have wondered what would become of them once Jesus was gone. Jesus gives them a promise. He is not going to leave them as orphans with no-one to protect them. He will be with them but not in a way that the world can see.

Christian tradition teaches us that the Holy Spirit proceeds from the Father through the Son and as from the Father and the Son.

But for what purpose was the Holy Spirit sent into the world?

This is the Spirit of love and truth which comes from the Father and the Son - the third Person in the Trinity. Through this Spirit, we are able to enter into the divine life. Those who love God and follow Jesus' commands will know and be loved by God - Father and Son. They will be in God - and God will be in them.

The Spirit of truth was sent so He could guide the disciples of Jesus to the truth; He glorified Jesus, because He took what belonged to Jesus and declared it to us.

When we speak of the Holy Spirit as the "Spirit of Truth," we acknowledge part of His role as the Advocate.

As the Spirit of Truth, He guides the Church in all truths. When it is said that the Holy Spirit "he remains with you, and will be in you." It means that He will be with both, "with the Church" and "in every Christian." As He makes His dwelling within the Catholic Church that was instituted by

Jesus, He makes His indwelling in each and every one of us who are Temples of the Holy Spirit.

Jesus concludes with "Whoever has my commandments and observes them is the one who loves me. And whoever loves me will be loved by my Father, and I will love him and reveal myself to him." To share in the life of God, we must also share in the love and obedience of Jesus that was manifested towards His Father during His earthly life. We must share in the love that Jesus manifested towards other human beings. Such is obeying His commandments. Heavenly treasures are accumulated by applying the life of Christ in our lives.



St. John's Online Electronic Stewardship Program

Offering our parish family, a more secure, and convenient way to offer their weekly Mass tithe. Through our online program...*Parish Giving*, funds are electronically deposited directly from your checking, debit, or credit card account into our parishioner Mass contribution fund.

A link to this program is on our parish website, visit www.stjohnsottsville.org Click on the tab and follow the screen prompts. *It's that easy!*

Your on-going weekly Mass contributions helps to sustain us, as is our only means of income.

THANK YOU!

Parish Office
is

Temporarily Closed

*In case of sickness or danger of death
your priests are still available.
please call the office.*

The church is still open for prayer



UPDATE - 2020 Parish Sacraments

Sacrament of Confirmation: We received written notification from the Bishop's Office, all Parish Confirmations originally planned for May & June will now take place in the Fall. We await a call from the Bishop's Office with a new date & time.

Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

Once we are permitted to gather for Mass, a new date will be selected.

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

Donna Sciacca, DRE
610-847-5521

prep@stjohnsottsville.org



YOU'VE GOT MAIL...*please check your mail in the upcoming weeks for:*

- ❖ **FINAL REPORT CARDS**
- ❖ **2020-2021 PREP YEAR CALENDAR**
- ❖ **2020-2021 PREP Registration Form**
- ❖ **Financial Statements** to those who were on a payment plan for this past school year and did fulfill their obligation.

Please Note:

Attendance Award Certificates will be mailed under a separate cover.



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 **ADMISSIONS PAGE** on our website.

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

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

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
3rd Sunday, 12pm
Adoration & Prayer for Vocations
1st Saturday, 10am
Rosary, Confession, Mass, & Lunch

Archdiocese explores next steps in reopening churches for Mass

As state officials begin to ease COVID-19 restrictions, the Philadelphia Archdiocese is exploring how parishes can eventually resume the celebration of public liturgies.

Father Dennis Gill, director of the archdiocesan Office for Divine Worship, broadly outlined the plans many of which are still under development with archdiocesan pastors and parish leaders. He outlined a multifaceted effort to transition the archdiocese to active, in-person participation in Masses and parish activities after months of social distancing to prevent the spread of the virus. The project is being spearheaded by a task force recently convened by Archbishop Nelson Perez.

Father Gill, who co-chairs the task force with archdiocesan evangelization director Meghan Cokeley, said that preparations for post-pandemic life should cultivate a “new zeal” and a deeper appreciation of the sacraments. He acknowledged the “great sadness and discouragement” experienced by many at the inability to attend Mass in person and to receive holy Communion, adding that it has been “not only ... a hardship, but crippling.”

At the same time, he stressed that clergy and faithful will need to “cooperate with one another” as the archdiocese navigates the transition period in alignment with public health officials. “It is really important that we don’t work against each other or disrespect what others are trying to do” to mitigate the coronavirus, he said.

The clarification was intended to counter an impression that the archdiocese “has been trailing the state and medical professionals” in its response to the coronavirus, said Father Gill, noting that faith and public health directives are not in opposition. “We have been listening to and cooperating with the state, and we need the guidance of professionals,” he said, adding that ultimately “the church leads” in its plans to restore in-person public worship.

Updates will be issued by the archdiocese as the state’s strategy evolves, and “it will be the Archbishop himself who will direct us that it’s time for us to open things,” Father Gill said.

Three phases to a ‘new normal’

The archdiocesan shift to post-pandemic activity will mirror the state’s three-stage plan for resuming business and public activities, said Father Gill.

Currently we remain in the **“red” phase**, which mandates stay-at-home orders, strict social distancing, and the closures of school and non-life sustaining businesses. This phase has been extended through June 4th.

Next we will enter the **“yellow” phase**. Then the final **“green” phase** will mark what the state calls a **“new normal”** in which Centers for Disease Control (CDC) and Pennsylvania Department of Health guidelines must be observed.

Given its COVID-19 statistics and population density, the five-county archdiocesan area will likely be among the last to emerge from the red phase, with the very real possibility that “one county may move ahead of another” in reopening, said Father Gill.

Admitting that “it’s very hard to say ... precisely” what the next two phases might look like in parishes, Father Gill confirmed that **both sanitation and social distancing will be key to preventing a resurgence of COVID-19.**

He stated that churches will need to be regularly disinfected according to CDC guidelines. Reception of the Precious Blood “will probably be suspended for the foreseeable future,” he conceded, but “that certainly is not a permanent restriction.” The use of face masks and gloves, and at least a temporary discontinuation of handing out printed materials such as hymnals and church bulletins, is being considered, said Father Gill. **Much is yet to be decided.**

As with the Sunday Mass obligation, the faithful have been dispensed from the holy day obligation for the Ascension of the Lord on May 21.

Parish Email List: **“Sign Me Up”**

We at St. John’s are doing our part to prepare to keep you informed on the most **Up-To-Date News** coming out of our Diocese. And although our parish has a large number of email addresses on file, we don’t have everyone’s! This is where you can help!

- ✓ Be sure we have **your most current** email address on file at the parish office.
- ✓ Spread the word to your family, friends, all who attend St. John’s, and ask them to do the same.
- ✓ Contact us. Send an email and in the subject line write, **“Sign Me Up.”**
- ✓ Be sure you use your most current email when sending. Email to:

prep@stjohnsottsville.org

Ministry Schedule for: May 23rd & 24th – Seventh Sunday of Easter

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm				
Sunday 8am				
Sunday 10:30am				

Per the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:

**ALL PUBLIC MASSES
HAVE BEEN SUSPENDED
UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE**



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



March 1st – June 1st

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

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

PRAY FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

The isolated sick, those who lost their life to this disease & their families, Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Technicians, EMT's, First Responders, Care Givers, those who keep our stores open & stocked, take-out restaurants, transportation, garbage collection, mechanics, and all the other essential amenities available to us.

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.