

### 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](http://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 25 – May 31, 2020**

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

#### **May 25 – MEMORIAL DAY:**

**Tuesday: Jack Glancey** (*Brian & Susan Middleton & Family*)

**Wednesday: Mario Sciacca** (*Donna Sciacca*)

**Thursday: John Zdanowicz** (*Wendy DeGroot*)

**Friday: Intention of Darafinn Twomey** (*Twomey Family*)

**Saturday 5pm:**

**For the Poor Souls in Purgatory**

**Sunday 8am & 10:30am:**

**Parishioners' Intentions**

### **Weekly Mass Collections Sunday, May 17, 2020**

**Envelopes \$3,712.00**

**Parish Giving \$2,385.00**

***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*

## JESUS PRAYS

Gospel of John 17: 1 – 11a

In our Gospel reading today, John equates knowledge with eternal life. In Judaism, knowledge of God came through the revelation of God found in the Law and obedience to that Law. Jews believed they could realize the presence of God in daily life by keeping the Torah. And in keeping the Torah, they could look into the mind of God. John followed that line of reasoning, but replaced the Law with the person of Jesus Christ. For John, eternal life was not simply obeying God's Law, but having a relationship with his Son. Love of the Son superseded a lifestyle of religious duty.

The Gospel begins and ends with a prayer for "Glorification."

The glory Jesus prayed for was the cross. On the cross, Jesus would reveal himself as the Christ; on the cross, his followers would understand what sort of God they worshiped: a God of love. Through the cross, God would offer his faithful the gift of his very life, the gift of eternal life.

Eternal life came from knowledge: an intimate knowledge of God and the one he sent, Jesus Christ. This knowledge could only be gained in a growing faith relationship with the Father and the Son. John seemed to imply that eternal life was not only a knowledge of, but a partaking with, the relationship between the Father and the Son. Indeed, one can only gain knowledge of the Father and the Son by somehow being a part of that relationship.

Jesus not only prays to be "glorified with the Father," but also prays for his followers. These followers were now part of the relationship between the Father and the Son and the followers now revealed the glory of the Son through their witness.

Jesus gave his followers eternal life when he revealed the name of the Father. "Everything I have is yours and the things you have are mine." (17:10a) This is the most explicit statement about position of the disciples in the relationship between the Father and the Son. We are part of the love between the Father and the Son; we have been "caught up" in the life of the

Trinity. Even though the Son is no longer in the world, he implores his Father to grant his followers the intimate unity that the Trinity shares. This is more than coexistence within the Church. This is a bond of love that is a far greater witness than the individual Christian can make alone. It is a prayer for community on the supernatural level; it is a prayer that all of us might share in the life that the Father and the Son share in. This is eternal life! This shows the Lord's true glory.

o show faith, we wave the cross. But, more to the point, we live the cross. As the cross revealed the love of the Father for the Son, it shows us our place in the love. It is an invitation to eternal life. And it is a realization of that life. When we live the cross, we participate in the love between the Father and the Son. This is true glory.



### 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](http://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

#### 2020 Sacrament of Confirmation

The RITE of CONFIRMATION within the MASS will take place on  
**WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 30, 2020**  
**at 3PM.**

#### Sacrament of First Holy Communion:

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

Donna Sciacca, DRE  
610-847-5521

[prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org)



*YOU'VE GOT MAIL...please check your mailbox for:*

- ❖ **FINAL REPORT CARDS**
- ❖ **2020-2021 PREP YEAR CALENDAR**
- ❖ **2020-2021 PREP Registration Form**

**2020-2021 PREP Registration forms**  
are due back along with your payment  
**on or before JULY 6<sup>th</sup>.**

**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](mailto:tkoerber@rasjb.org)

Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director  
[amattle@rasjb.org](mailto:amattle@rasjb.org) / 267-424-5762  
[www.rasjb.org](http://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  
**3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday, 12pm**  
Adoration & Prayer for Vocations  
**1<sup>st</sup> Saturday, 10am**  
**Rosary, Confession, Mass, & Lunch**



## As parishes reopen, anxieties mix with spiritual needs

When parishioners begin returning to their churches as pandemic restrictions are gradually lifted, the buildings will look the same, but the environment might feel different because of new social-distancing measures.

For example, in Houston, a young adult woman who went to Sunday Mass the first weekend in May when her parish reopened for public Mass said her initial excitement changed to anxiety and fear as she noticed others not following the parish's new guidelines for Mass attendance. Her mind raced with distraction during the Mass even as she focused on the liturgy.

As churches reopen, favorite pews might now be blocked off, friendly faces might seem distant or unrecognizable behind masks, or those who remain at home might feel jealous of those who can attend Mass.

These experiences are “absolutely” normal, real and valid, according to a licensed community counselor at the Counseling and Behavioral Health Clinic at Catholic Charities in Galveston-Houston.

Although other generations also have endured crises, this experience is much more troubling due to the constant news about it, which can increase anxiety. But we should not be governed by fear, we should use wisdom in making the best decisions for ourselves and family, and trust that God has not forsaken his people. We face a real danger, and we must adjust how we live life. But we should not live in fear but rather in the peace that God gives us.

Parishioners need to remember these new measures are there for the health and best interest of everyone. We are mind, body and soul with the physical, emotional and spiritual sides that are all interconnected. How we think is going to impact how we feel. Negative or anxious thoughts will drive an anxious or nervous emotion.

As parishioners return to Mass, we have a choice on how we are going to think about. When you get very strict or very rigid in your mentality, then that's going to set you up for being let down when things change.

If the focus remains only on all the changes of how Mass will look, this will drive an anxious emotion or possibly a resentful emotion, she said, depending on how one views the measures advised by local officials.

While a more positive view of such changes may bring a different emotion, it might not make everyone

happy. Still, it can bring a little bit more ease and understanding to a changing situation.

Parishioners are encouraged to focus on what is right and not what is wrong, which can be applied to any part of life: marriages, families, work and spiritual practices.

If we only walk in thinking of all the things that we can't do the same way, then we're going to miss out on all the beautiful rituals that we still have the ability to practice.

It's so important that our focus stays on the unchanging word of God, on his love, on the things that we still have so that we can stay connected with the body of Christ even if it means that it looks a little different.

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### 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](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org)



“Arise: Restoring Catholic Life After the Pandemic,” an initiative to invigorate parish life after COVID-19 restrictions are lifted, visit [archphila.org/arise](https://archphila.org/arise). The initiative provides parishes and Archdiocesan institutions with guidance and resources for worship, catechesis, evangelization, and communications to help clergy and faithful reintegrate into active, in-person participation in Mass and parish activities.

Ministry Schedule for: May 30th & 31st – **PENTECOST SUNDAY**

	Extraordinary Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music
Saturday 5pm	<div>Per the Archdiocese of Philadelphia:</div> <div><b>ALL PUBLIC MASSES</b></div> <div><b>HAVE BEEN TEMPORARILY</b></div> <div><b>SUSPENDED</b></div> <div><b>UNTIL FURTHER NOTICE</b></div>			
Sunday 8am				
Sunday 10:30am				



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**



March 1st – June 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, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, Ernie D'Angelo, 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, Ed Wismer.

**PRAY FOR THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS**

The quarantined sick, the elderly who live alone or are in nursing homes, the patients in long-term care facilities, the many who have succumbed to this virus & 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 that remain available to us.

**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.

**Congratulations & Prayers for much success in the future to:**

**The Regina Academy CLASS OF 2020 and all our parish community GRADUATES.**