

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 4 – May 10, 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 (*Jim & Joan Black*)

Tuesday: John Zdanowicz (*Jim & Laura Fleck Family*)

Wednesday: Jack Glancey (*Jackie Litzenberger*)

Thursday: Anna Scoz (*Mary Kosmin*)

Friday: John Sabath (*Loving Wife*)

"He gives the barren woman a home, making her the joyous mother of children. Praise the Lord!" ~ Psalm 113:9

HAPPY MOTHER'S DAY

Saturday 5pm:

In memory of our Loving Mothers & Grandmothers

Sunday 8am:

Intentions of all Moms, Moms-to-be, Grandmothers

Sunday 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

Weekly Mass Collections Sunday, April 26, 2020

Envelopes \$ 4,490.00

Parish Giving \$ 3,270.49

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 Parable of the Good Shepherd

Gospel of John 10: 1-10

The 'I am' sayings of Jesus in the fourth gospel are very significant. 'I am ... the bread of life ... the living water ... the light of the world' etc. They indicate to us Jesus' divine status, since God himself (when asked his name by Moses) declared: I AM WHO I AM. The pictures and images which Jesus uses show us the face of God.

This is true of the image used here. When Jesus says he is the 'gate' of the sheepfold, his listeners will be aware that God is presented as a shepherd in the Old Testament- most famously, in Psalm 23. The ideal of a good, caring shepherd is even more vivid, when we are told that the custom was for the shepherd himself to sleep crouched at the entrance of the sheepfold- in other words, the watchful shepherd was, literally, the 'gate'.

The lovely phrase, found only in John's gospel, that Jesus 'has come so that we might have life and have it to the full', is very attractive. We have here a picture of total freedom, together with total security; really, a New Testament version of Psalm 23, where the sheep wants for absolutely nothing, and who is followed, for its whole life, by goodness and mercy.

Jesus uses rich images from daily life to illustrate the depth of his desired relationship with us. On the one side, Jesus speaks of shepherd and sheep, gatekeeper and gate, pasture and life, recognition and salvation. The contrasting words are: strangers, thieves and bandits, killing and stealing, running away in fear instead of following, climbing in rather than walking through the open gate.

The people do not understand the parable, so the Lord explains it: all must come through him to obtain true life. We could reflect on what it is or who it is that prevents us following the Lord.

What lifts your spirit, satisfies your soul, gives you lasting peace and fills you with life? These are moments that come from the presence of Christ in you.

On the other hand, what drains you, steals your energy, leaves you lifeless and empty, kills your spirit, treats you like a statistic rather than a unique person? These are moments indicative of the thief, the enemy of our human nature.

A good way to start to pray is to settle down and become quiet, and then listen as Jesus calls you by name. Jesus is very personal.



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

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**



PREP PARENTS please check your inboxes often for an email from your child's teacher with your child's weekly assignment.

Although it is unlikely we will be back in class this school year, I remain hopeful that we may get to see one another at our PREP closing Mass, scheduled for May 17th...time will tell.

Final Assessment Tests

Grades 1st - 6th

will be emailed home on May 4th & 5th.

Completed tests due back

on or before May 11th.

The Final Assessment test is intended to allow us to determine the level of knowledge each child acquired through the end of this school year.

For those who may have fallen behind, an alternative plan will be offered to allow them to catch up before the start of the new school year.

All students will move onto their next grade level at the close of this year.

CONFIRMATION INTERVIEWS

Monday, May 4th & Tuesday, May 5th

4pm via Zoom meeting.

An email was sent to the parents of all our Candidates earlier this week. If you did not receive it, or if you have not yet responded, please contact me on Monday.

Our very first, "At-Home Virtual"

1st HOLY COMMUNION RETREAT

packet was emailed to the families of all our Communicants.

If you did not receive one, please contact Donna Sciacca, DRE at the parish office.

2020 Sacraments Postponed

Once the ban on public Mass has been lifted we will schedule the following:

Sacrament of First Holy Communion: A new date will be selected for a time convenient to all.

Sacrament of Confirmation: We are currently awaiting a NEW DATE from the Bishops office.

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

Donna Sciacca, DRE
prep@stjohnsottsville.org



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

May the month of Mary



This entire month of May is dedicated to our Blessed Mother, Mary.

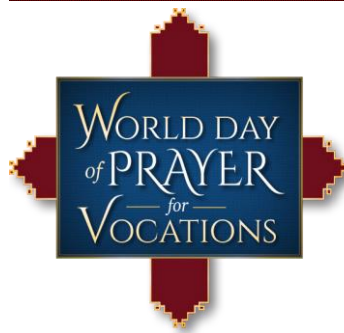
Traditionally, May has been celebrated as the month of “new life.” This has been true even for the ancient Greeks and Romans who each had goddesses that represented the blooming of new life. It is easy to see this because the earth seems to be coming back to life when winter is over and the flowers and trees begin to sprout their beautiful, lively colors again. Mary is also a bearer of new life. She literally brought the Life to the world in bearing her Son, Jesus, whom destroyed our death or “winter” of sin. God, working through Mary, gave us new life. Similar to the earth bringing forth new life, so does the role of a mother. It is in her divine design that God forms all of us: “Before I formed you in the womb I knew you...” Jeremiah 1:5. So not only does Mary get honored this month, but every mother (Mother’s day) because every single one of them is an ark for new life in this world.

How can we honor Mary this month?

Simple, pray the rosary. In all the hundreds of apparitions of Mary she has constantly called us to pray the holy rosary for the salvation of souls. This is an easy, yet powerful way to honor her this month. It has been said that each time we pray the Rosary, a rose is added to the crown of Mary. This isn't something that needs to be done alone or in private. Many churches this month have started praying a rosary as a congregation before each mass. Pray it as a family and allow Mary to wrap her mantle of peace around all of you.

Another common way of respecting Mary’s queen-ship is by crowning her statue in your church with a crown of flowers.

Don’t be afraid to show your love for your holy mother by wearing her Miraculous Medal, which she gave the design for herself. Although small and rather common to most of us, the medal is actually quite powerful and comes from another request of our mother.



Sunday

May 3, 2020

57th Annual

World Day of

Prayer for Vocations

“The courage to take a risk for God’s promise.”

“The Lord’s call is not an intrusion of God in our freedom; it is not a “cage” or a burden to be borne. On the contrary, it is the loving initiative whereby God encounters us and invites us to be part of a great undertaking. He opens before our eyes the horizon of a greater sea and an abundant catch.”



**POPE FRANCIS ORDAINS 16 PRIESTS ON
WORLD DAY OF PRAYER FOR
VOCATIONS**

“Be merciful,” Pope tells new priests.

<https://youtu.be/kgQTpOFohIs>

Ministry Schedule for: May 9th & 10th – Fifth Sunday of Easter

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

PLEASE PRAY FOR...

March 1st – June 1st prayer list.

To RENEW or to ADD a 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, Riley Telesco, Cynthia Tocci, Helen Wall.

PRAY FOR ALL THOSE AFFECTED BY THE CORONAVIRUS

Our Doctors, Nurses, Hospital Technicians, EMT’s, First Responders, Care Givers, the isolated sick and their families.

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.