

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 Tirpock

Bulletin Editor/Webmaster: Donna Sciacca

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm

Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am

Mon- Fri: 9:00am

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.

Certificates of Eligibility: Issued to registered parishioners, 16 yrs. and older, received all of their Sacraments of Initiation, attend MASS regularly at St. John's, and receive the sacraments of Communion and Penance often.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month. Sacrament of Baptism



takes place immediately following the 10:30am Mass. Parents and Godparents must attend an enrichment 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*.



Mass Intentions

Week of Nov. 30 – Dec. 6, 2020

Daily Mass Monday – Friday 9am

Monday: Tom High (*Steve & Monica Benko*)

Tuesday: Jane Blodgett (*Ed McMaster*)

Wednesday: Ann C. Lapsley (*John F. Lapsley Jr.*)

Thursday: Carmen Misiti (*The McCords*)

Friday: Philip A. Lapsley (*James Lapsley Jr.*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday Vigil, 5pm: Fran Torgerson (*Liz Torgerson*)

Sunday, 8am: Parishioners' Intentions

Sun: 10:30am: Mario Sciacca (*Donna Sciacca*)

Parish Office Hours

Mon-Thurs 9am – 5pm

Friday 9am – 1pm

An appointment is required to schedule a Baptism, Wedding, or Funeral. Please contact Donna Sciacca at 610-847-5521 for more information.

Mass Collection November 22, 2020

Not Available at Press Time.

Thank you for your generosity!

FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE

Bedminster, PA

"A Quiet Country Retreat"

Offering Day Retreats for groups up to 50

**Overnight Retreats for groups
up to 8**



Monday, 7pm

Adoration & Prayers

Wednesday, 9:30am

Adoration & Prayers

3rd Sunday, 12pm

Adoration & Prayer for Vocations

1st Saturday, 10am

Rosary, Confession, Mass

Followed by Lunch

**Call Joan Black for directions, reservations, or more info
at 215-795-2947.**



“Be watchful! Be alert! You do not know when the time will come...What I say to you, I say to all: ‘Watch!’ (Mark 13:33,37)

Jesus is predicting the destruction of the temple in Jerusalem. His words came true in 70 AD when the Romans destroyed the temple but the words of Jesus have value for us today also.

Why are we asked today to be watchful and alert? We will meet Jesus as Judge when we die or at his Second Coming in glory, whichever comes first, so we are really being asked to prepare our souls for God because we do not know when we will be called from this life. This is the message of the first half of Advent every year: *prepare your soul for God*. When we prepare our souls for God we will have the best visit from Jesus this Christmas.

How do we prepare our souls for God? How do we watch and be alert? The more sin we have in our lives the less of Jesus we have in our lives. If you want to be watchful and alert, prepare your soul for God by tipping the balance or scales towards Jesus and away from sin. Of course the reason we commit sin is because it gives us a temporary pleasure and we want instant gratification instead of using our brains and seeing how foolish sin is, but afterwards we are left to deal with our guilt. For a moment we get lost admiring the gifts God gives us instead of admiring God the giver of the gifts. There is a grace offered to us in Advent to get our priorities right in our lives.

There is really only one gift at Christmas, Jesus. To receive this priceless gift we need to turn away from sin and towards Jesus. That is why receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation is an important part of watching and preparing our hearts during Advent. Let us not postpone receiving the Sacrament of Reconciliation. Being ready for God is too important to postpone, God comes first and deserves our best. What happens if the lord of the house comes and we are not ready? We have just spent a month praying for the souls in Purgatory.

They were those who were not ready when the lord of the house came for them.

Will you have a guest this Christmas? There is One who wants to spend time with you this Christmas and longs for you to spend time with him, the Lord Jesus. Make this the best Christmas you have ever had by opening your heart and home to Jesus. Let Jesus come to visit your heart and home this Christmas.

There is really only one gift at Christmas, Jesus!

Excerpt from Fr. Tommie Lane 2013 Archdiocese of Atlanta.



VOCATION OFFICE FOR THE
DIOCESAN PRIESTHOOD
ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
HEED THE CALL

#iGiveCatholic
Giving Tuesday - December 1, 2020

An annual 24-hour day of Catholic giving. Support of this initiative will help fund the various outreach ministries that our office sponsors for men who are listening for God's voice and discerning a possible call to the priesthood. These donations help keep registration fees low so that all can participate. These ministries include our annual Quo Vadis and Going Deeper Camps, as well as video and online resources. More information on these initiatives can be found on our website at Heedthecall.org.

To support #iGiveCatholic visit our online giving page, The Archdiocese of Philadelphia Vocation Office Fund: Heed the Call. Donations will also be accepted during the advance giving period (November 16, 2020 to November 30, 2020 – envelopes are on our tables in the Narthex.



WHY PURPLE FOR ADVENT

With the start of **Advent**, you will see an **Advent wreath** as well as **splashes of purple** around the church. Advent is the 4-week period during which Christians prepare for the birth of Jesus Christ.

So why the purple? Purple is a penitential color. That means that the color is to remind us of our need to repent (seek forgiveness) and change our hearts. **The purple of Advent is a little different from the purple you may see during Lent.** The purple we use during **Advent has more of a blue undertone.** This **blue-purple** is intended to distinguish the **Advent season** from the **Lenten season.** **Advent is a more hopeful season and our acts of penance are part of our preparation for the Lord's coming both now and at the end of time.** **How to have fun as we celebrate Advent? As your family do acts of penance, do something extra to help you focus more intentionally and prayerfully on the coming of the Messiah.**

Suggested Advent Projects for Children

- 1) **Make ornaments for the Lord's Pantry for them to give out.**
- 2) **Have the kids made a special gift for their entire family to enjoy. Such as: an Advent wreath for the refrigerator; a "Joy" sign for their doorknob**
- 3) **Write a prayer of to the Mary & Joseph as if you were there, in the stable with them on the night Christ was born.**
- 4) **Make Christmas cards during Advent to send to friends & family you haven't seen in a while. For the cards use images from magazines, wrapping paper, or draw your own. Don't forget to add cotton balls (snow) pine cones or little branches for a tree.**



THE REGINA ACADEMY at ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST

Now forming an On- Call list for SUBSTITUTE Teachers

The role of an on-call substitute greatly benefits the stability of our Regina Academy @ SJB school. This is a part-time position.

- ~ Substitutes must be available weekdays during the academic year from 8:30am-3:30pm.
- ~ Applicants must be practicing Catholics, be able to sign an Oath of Fidelity to the Catholic Church, and have a deep love for the Catholic faith.
- ~ All staff must complete a background check and Safe Child training prior to teaching at Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist.

Please send your resume accompanied by a cover letter, and references to our Headmaster, Tami Koerber at 4040 Durham Rd., Ottsville, PA 18942

Save the Date

Please Note, all government & Diocese restrictions for face coverings, social distancing, & maximum occupancy limits are to be followed at all times.



Christmas Tableau Friday, Dec. 18, 2020 at 7pm

Mrs. Tami Koerber, Head of School
Mrs. Amy Mattle, Admissions Director
www.rasjb.org



The Giving Tree will be in the Narthex the 1st Sunday of Advent.

Due to pandemic restrictions we will be giving our Pantry Family's Gift Cards this year.

The tree tags will indicate the preferred gift card (Target, Walmart, Giant).

Gift cards may be purchased through the parish office.

Gifts need to be back by Dec. 14th.

Virtual Conference Nov. 28th & 29th

"God is Mercy"

"Real stories of lives utterly changed by God's love to help you renew your faith and be witness to God's faithfulness."

Free Registration

Virtual Conference with SmartCatholics featuring Over 40 Catholic Speakers including:

Fr. Christopher Walsh, Fr. Stephen Delacy, Friars of the Mercedarian Religious Order & more!

For more information or to register, visit:

<https://smartcatholics.com/events/>

Hosted by the St. Raymond Nonnatus Foundation for Freedom, Family, and Faith through Smart Catholics On-line.

Praying Through Infertility Online Advent Retreat, Dec. 4- 6

For those struggling with infertility, the time spent preparing for and celebrating Christmas can be bittersweet. But the Lord offers us great hope!

Springs in the Desert invites those carrying the burden of infertility and loss to a **FREE virtual mini-prayer retreat.**

Discover ways to connect more deeply to God and your spouse through prayer; contemplate the Lord's closeness in your suffering; and learn ways to surrender your sorrows to God, and invite Him to guide you and strengthen your marriage. Retreat ends with a Facebook Live event on Dec. 6 at 2pm EST. More information or to register visit: <https://springsinthedesert.org>

Charity is at the heart of our work and our faith.



Each year our **Knights of Columbus** donate winter coats to the Lord's Pantry for the children of the families they serve. This year, because of the pandemic and the hardship so many face with the loss of jobs, they **TRIPLED** the size of their donation. **The Knights donated 72 winter coats for boys and girls to our Lord's Pantry.**

Women's Advent Morning of Reflection Saturday, December 5th - 10:00-11:15 AM (on Zoom)

Understanding Mary's Heart: Letting Her Fire Ignite Our Hearts

Our Lady's heart burns with a fire of love for God and for each one of us. Join us for virtual morning of reflection in which we will seek to understand the heart of the Blessed Virgin Mary, her role in our lives as Mother, and the peace and tranquility she wishes to bring into our lives, especially in these times of turmoil. We will also look to Mary to understand more deeply what it means to be a woman and how, during this Advent, we can grow closer to her and by doing so, ignite our feminine genius.

Guest Speaker - Meghan Cokeley, Office for the New Evangelization, Archdiocese of Philadelphia
Sponsored by St. Andrew Catholic Church, Newtown PA

To register visit:

https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_d5C_mSulT8KB1GgGL8hIkG

RETRouvaille: REDISCOVER THE LOVE IN YOUR MARRIAGE

Tens of thousands of couples have healed their marriages through Retrouvaille (pronounced Retro-vy). If you know anyone who could benefit from this program, please pass this on. Couples learn to build communication skills and to increase intimacy. It provides help for marriage problems, difficulties or crises.

The next program begins the weekend of February 12 - 14, 2021 at the Family Life Center in Malvern, PA.

For more information, or to register, visit

www.HelpOurMarriage.org

or call 215-766-3944 or 800-470-2230.

All inquiries are strictly confidential.

Ministry Schedule for: December 5th & 6th – 2nd Sunday of Advent

December 8th – Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Ministry Schedule:				
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Saturday 5pm	Joe Cegielski	Tom Costello	Siohban Crews	Nio Logaivau Bob Galdo
Sunday 8am	Mark Fetter	Helene Bell	Meade Grindrod	Liz Torgerson Fred Furmaniak
Sunday 10:30am	Joan Beebe	Patti Keyser	Joseph Gonzales-Fleck Leighana Fleck	Denny Litzenberger Sue Rogers
Tues. Dec. 8 9am Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Joan Black	Donna Sciacca	Open	Liz Torgerson Sue Rogers
Tues. Dec. 8 7:30pm Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary	Weez Roney	Helene Bell	Open	Patty Leidner Sue Rogers



PLEASE PRAY FOR...

* New Name Added



NEW CYCLE: Sept. 1st – Dec. 1st

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

OUR SICK: Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Loretta Bodisch, Katie Carty, Steve Combs, Patty Combs, Julia Ferguson, Patricia Fite, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, MaryAnn Hauber, Nate Leidtke, Jackie Litzenberger, Kathie Mandra, Bridget McHugh, Anne McNichol, Nancy Moreno, Jeff Olimpo, Gerry Pacitti, Janet Reidler, Pete Shultz, Sr., Steve & Wendy Snyder, Riley Telesco, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer, Christine Zdanowicz.

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.