

**December 3<sup>rd</sup>, 2023 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

## **The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist Parish**

Administered by the Missionaries of the Sacred Heart

4050 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942

Phone 610-847-5521 \* Fax 610-847-5522 \* [www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org)



# **FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**THANK YOU FOR ATTENDING MASS WITH US TODAY. WE ARE GLAD YOU CAME!**

### PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Selvaraj Lucas, M.S.C.  
Director of Religious Education: Mary Ann Corcoran  
Finance Manager: Carolyn Marchese  
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok  
Bulletin/Website: Carolyn Marchese  
Facilities Manager: Thomas Rimmer

### MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm  
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am  
Mon- Fri: 9:00am (Thursday at old St. John's Church)  
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm  
CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or by appt.

Register in the Parish: Please contact the Parish Office to register when you move into our parish.

Certificates of Eligibility: May be issued only to registered parishioners who currently reside within our parish boundaries, who have been registered parishioners at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, who have received all of their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their faith in our parish.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism may be scheduled to take place on a Saturday at 10am or 11am; or on a Sunday following at 11:45am. Parents and at least one Godparent are to attend our Enrichment class prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. Godparents must be committed, practicing Catholics, over the age of 16, and if from another parish, must provide a *Certificate of Eligibility* from their pastor. A Christian of another denomination may serve as a Christian Witness alongside a Catholic Godparent.



MARRIAGE: The Sacrament of Matrimony Mass may be celebrated no later than 1pm on Saturdays. Couples planning marriage are to contact the Parish Office & schedule a meeting with our Pastor no later than 6 months in advance of the planned wedding date. Couples are to attend a Pre-Cana program approved by our Diocese.



ANointing OF THE SICK: Please call the Parish Office at any time to request a visit from our Pastor for Anointing of the Sick. Communion will be brought to the sick and homebound by our Pastor or one of our Communion Ministers upon request. **We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the Feast of St. John the Baptist.**



### Mass Intentions

#### Week of December 04 – December 10, 2023

Monday: Intentions of Helene Bell (*A Friend*)  
Tuesday: † Fran Torgerson (*Liz Torgerson*)  
Wednesday: † Miriam Burke (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)  
Thursday: † Dorothy Thornton (*A Friend*)  
Friday: **Immaculate Conception** Parishioners' Intentions

### Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: † Ethel Facht (*Doug & Dolores Warmkessel*)  
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions  
Sunday 10:30am: † Bill Saxton (*Chris Zdanowicz*)

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### PARISH OFFICE HOURS: MON–FRI 9AM–5PM

To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas through the Parish Office.

**The Parish Office will be closed on Friday, December 8<sup>th</sup> for Immaculate Conception**

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### WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

November 19<sup>th</sup> Envelopes \$4,726 \* E-Giving \$2,066  
November 26<sup>th</sup> Envelopes \$7,131 \* E-Giving \$1,704  
*Thank you for your generosity!*

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### WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 03: Advent Bible Study - Marian Room – 9:00am  
Mon. Dec 04: K of C Op Mtg - Marian Room – 7:30pm  
Tue. Dec 05: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm  
Wed. Dec 06: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm  
Sat. Dec 09: Men of Faith – Marian Room – 9:00am

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### A PRAYER FOR PEACE

O JESUS! MY LORD AND MY GOD!  
I TRUST IN YOU,  
O PRINCE OF PEACE!  
I PRAY THAT YOU WILL  
HELP ALL PEOPLE OF  
THIS WORLD TO BE UNITED  
AS ONE WITH YOU  
AS OUR LORD AND SAVIOR!  
JESUS, I TRUST IN YOU!

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**THE IMMACULATE CONCEPTION  
OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY  
is a Holy Day of Obligation.**

**Masses are at 9am & 7pm in the New Church**



Please consider a leaving a legacy to St. John the Baptist Parish. A gift to SJB in your will enables you to support the Church and makes a difference in the lives of future generations.  
*Thank you. God bless.*

## FROM YOUR PASTOR

Today the holy mother church enters into the first Sunday of the advent. The readings invite us to reflect and introspect about how much are we prepared? The readings do not indicate the external preparation; rather, they tell us, how we are preparing internally. The Lord does not look at external appearance rather he looks at our hearts.

The Lord invites us to leave our past sinful ways and attitudes and to walk in his way. It implies that living a life of holiness which he intends for each one of us by the act of charity, through our personal prayer, by the love we have for poor and needy and the attitude of forgiving. In times of uncertainty, we have many opportunities to render service to one another materially.

If we have nothing to offer to others, let's have at least kind words: it is sufficient to bring changes in the lives of people. In this way, we prepare ourselves to receive Jesus in our hearts in our family, society and nation.

Sincerely in Our Lord

REV. S. LUCAS MSC

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish

## Pope Francis' Prayer for Peace

*Lord God of peace, hear our prayer!*

We have tried so many times and over so many years to resolve our conflicts by our own powers and by the force of our arms. How many moments of hostility and darkness have we experienced; how much blood has been shed; how many lives have been shattered; how many hopes have been buried... But our efforts have been in vain.

Now, Lord, come to our aid! Grant us peace, teach us peace; guide our steps in the way of peace. Open our eyes and our hearts, and give us the courage to say: "Never again war!"; "With war everything is lost". Instill in our hearts the courage to take concrete steps to achieve peace.

Lord, God of Abraham, God of the Prophets, God of Love, you created us and you call us to live as brothers and sisters. Give us the strength daily to be instruments of peace; enable us to see everyone who crosses our path as our brother or sister. Make us sensitive to the plea of our citizens who entreat us to turn our weapons of war into implements of peace, our trepidation into confident trust, and our quarreling into forgiveness.

Keep alive within us the flame of hope, so that with patience and perseverance we may opt for dialogue and reconciliation. In this way may peace triumph at last, and may the words "division", "hatred" and "war" be banished from the heart of every man and woman. Lord, defuse the violence of our tongues and our hands. Renew our hearts and minds, so that the word which always brings us together will be "brother", and our way of life will always be that of: Shalom, Peace, Salaam! Amen

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### PRAYERS TO ST. PEREGRINE

Every Tuesday morning, following the 9am Mass we will be praying for those who are suffering from cancer and other diseases. We will be doing the Prayers to St. Peregrine.

*Please join us in praying for all who are suffering*

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### KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Our Father Stommel Council #4545 meets the 1<sup>st</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup> Mondays at 7:30pm. For information or to join, contact Grand Knight Frank Balbirer or email [KofC4545@aol.com](mailto:KofC4545@aol.com).



## NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE

**FRIDAY, JANUARY 19<sup>TH</sup>, 2024**

A bus has been reserved for St. John and St. Lawrence parishioners to attend the 2024 March for Life in Washington, DC. Retaining this reservation will depend upon having enough folks committing to attend. We ask all interested to please sign up before Dec. 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023.

**The National March for Life is an opportunity to bear witness to the beautiful gift of life that Our Lord shares with us. The bus will leave from St. John the Baptist to DC on Jan. 19<sup>th</sup>, 2024.**



**SJB NITTY GRITTY GARDEN CLUB**  
**Christmas Poinsettia & Wreath**  
**Pick Up This Weekend December 2<sup>nd</sup> & 3<sup>rd</sup>.**  
Any questions, please contact Jeanne Keller at 610-999-8322.  
**Thank you for your support! God bless!**



**Join the  
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 3<sup>rd</sup>  
TEAM 5**

**This is a once per month commitment.**

#### Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

The only Catholic, Classical School in Bucks County!

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- Tight knit, like minded community
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#### The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist is Hiring!

The only Catholic classical school in Bucks County is seeking ardent Catholics who can teach across the curriculum and integrate the Faith as part of the formation of the memory, intellect, will and heart of the students.

#### We have openings for:

Office Manager Full-Time

5<sup>th</sup> Grade Classroom Teacher (Full-Time)

Catechesis of the Good Shepherd (CGS) Catechist (Part-Time)

Substitute Teachers

**Teacher certification is not required.**

**Come and learn the beauty of Catholic, classical education!**

Please direct resumés and questions to Tami Koerber, Head of School, [tkoerber@rasjb.org](mailto:tkoerber@rasjb.org) - 610-847-5523.



**K of C and Regina Academy**



#### Annual Christmas Party

**Dec 17, 2023 • Noon to 3:00 P.M.**  
**RA@SJB School Gym**

All are invited! This is the perfect time for all RA@SJB Families, St. John the Baptist, St. Lawrence Parishioners, and the regional community to come together and have a wonderful Christmas celebration.

- Drinks—Pretzels—Popcorn—Coffee/Tea—Goodies
- Pizza & Cotton Candy!
- Face Painting & Decoration Making / Craft Tables
- Toy Train Display
- Christmas Tree
- and of course... a visit with gifts from Jolly Old St. Nick!



### The Feast of the Holy Innocents

December 28th, 2023

Join us as we gather to reflect on the Feast of the Holy Innocents by celebrating holy Mass. There will be a reception to follow the Mass! Hosted by the Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition.

**When:** Thursday, December 28th, 2023 at 7:00 PM

**Where:** Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Parish - 235 East State Street Doylestown, PA 18901

- Reception at St. Mary's Hall across the street

Questions? Contact the Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition at [buckscountyprolife@gmail.com](mailto:buckscountyprolife@gmail.com) or call Karly Harney at (267) 337-5060.



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#### THE LORD'S PANTRY

**Giving Tree is set  
up in the Narthex.**

**This year ALL gifts will be in the form of gift cards.**  
**Gift cards must have original "Gift Tag" taken off the tree attached to them for identification purposes.**  
**Gift cards may be purchased through the Parish Office.**  
**Gift cards need to be placed back under the tree by Sunday, December 10<sup>th</sup>. Thank you and God Bless!**

#### Applications for The GIVEN Institute's 2024 program are now open!

GIVEN's year-long program of faith formation, leadership development and dedicated mentoring includes attendance at the **Catholic Young Women's Leadership Forum** June 8-12, 2024 at the Catholic University of America in Washington, DC and 1-on-1 mentorship with an established Catholic female leader in the Art of Accompaniment Mentoring Program until May 2025.

If you are a woman between the ages 21-35 and are seeking leadership training, faith formation, community and support to better understand and pursue your particular mission and vocation, the program is designed just for you! You'll grow in relationship with Christ and understanding of your gifts as you implement a unique Action Plan that helps you follow God's call. **The application deadline is January 15.**

GIVEN is also accepting applications from lay and consecrated women aged 36+ who would like to serve as mentors or volunteers.

**For full details, visit [www.giveninstitute.com/forum](http://www.giveninstitute.com/forum)**

#### ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST CEMETERY CLEAN-UP

*Thank  
You*

Thank you to all who helped with the cemetery clean-up in preparation for the Christmas season. God bless you!



## PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

for children who attend public school, private non-Catholic school, or at-home secular learning experiences, is provided at St. John the Baptist on Monday evenings from September through May.

*Any family not yet registered should contact the Director of Religious Education at [prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org) or call 610-847-5521.*

We at St. John the Baptist have planned the following as part of the Eucharistic Revival:

1. **Advent Bible Study "The Eucharist"** by Fr. Mitch Pacwa began Sunday, Nov. 26<sup>th</sup>. Learn about the essential connection between the Eucharist and the Scriptures and learn how to apply the principles in your own life. Bible study runs from Nov 26<sup>th</sup> through Dec 17<sup>th</sup> on Sundays at 9am in Marian Room.  
Cost: \$10.00. Sign-up sheets in the Narthex.
2. **Lenten Bible Study: "Jesus and the Jewish Roots"** by Brant Pitre
3. Apr 13<sup>th</sup> - Apr 14<sup>th</sup>, 2024: an overnight retreat at the Czestochowa Shrine **"Live the Mass"**

## O Holy Night

### FESTIVAL CAROLS IN THE KING'S COLLEGE TRADITION

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR: ANDREW LUTZ-LONG  
ASST. DIR.: MARY BETH PENJUKE  
ACCOMPANIST: KRISTINE FOSBENNER

## VALLEY CHORAL SOCIETY

SATURDAY DECEMBER 9 - 3 PM

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AT [WWW.VALLEYCHORALSOCIETY.COM](http://WWW.VALLEYCHORALSOCIETY.COM)



**Online Contributing Made Easy!** Please visit our website [www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org) and click on the above link. Follow the prompts to join our **e-giving program**.

For more information please call the Parish Office.

## Conquest for Boys & Challenge for Girls

are Catholic youth programs for K-4 & 5-8th grades that inspire children to grow in faith by building a friendship with Christ and living lives of virtue to make a positive impact on their families, friends and the world! We meet monthly on the 2nd and 4th Sundays right after 10:30 Mass!

**QUESTIONS: [CONQUESTFORCHRIST@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CONQUESTFORCHRIST@GMAIL.COM)**



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ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH  
IN ST. JOSEPH'S HALL  
Beginning at 10 am  
Rosary, confessions, Mass and lunch

PLEASE COME AND JOIN US IN PRAYER

To schedule your retreat and for additional  
information please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947

Our Lady of the Sacred Heart presents...

## 18th Annual Christmas Bazaar & Craft Fair

# Christmas — the most wonderful time of the year!

Saturday, December 2 • 9:00 am - 3:30 pm  
Sunday, December 3 • 9:00 am - 2:00 pm

Crafters & Vendors • Delicious Foods • Daily 50-50  
Santa's Attic • Bake Table • Basket Raffle • Visit from Santa  
Gems & Jewels • Book Nook • Parish Raffle

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## PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman  
Ted Fahy - President  
Marie Burke - Secretary  
Peg Glancey - Moderator  
Helene Bell, Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht,  
Nancy Kaczinski, Stephen Katra, Jeanne Keller  
Mike Kirk - Finance Council Representative

## FINANCE COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman  
Mike Kirk - President/Moderator  
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager - St. John the Baptist  
Mary Kosmin - Secretary  
Chris Hackley, Jim McHugh, Mary Miller,  
Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters  
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative



**DECEMBER 3<sup>RD</sup>, 2023 – FIRST SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**December 8<sup>th</sup>  
December 9<sup>th</sup> & 10<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**Immaculate Conception  
2<sup>nd</sup> Sunday of Advent**

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
<b>Immaculate Conception FRIDAY 9AM</b>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	Fred Furmaniak Liz Torgerson
<b>Immaculate Conception FRIDAY 7PM</b>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	<i>See Joan Black</i>	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci
<b>SATURDAY 5PM</b>	Lisa Saxton Marion Wolf	Patti Keyser	Rita Elsner Martin Elsner Christine Wimpenny	Katie Minster Karen Parash
<b>SUNDAY 8AM</b>	Tom Keller Bea Romaszewski	Jeanne Keller	Alaina Butler Need 2 Volunteers	-
<b>SUNDAY 10:30AM</b>	Anne Luna Leona Russell	Tony Luna	Fatu Logaivau Elia Logaivau Olivia Luna	Ordinary Time



**PLEASE PRAY FOR...**



**OUR SICK:**

Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Helene Bell, Loretta Bodisch, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Barbara Docs, Marvin Eichlin, Melanie Fioretta, Betty Fleck, Tom Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Stephen Holznagel, Sylvia Holznagel, **Elaine Jocelyn**, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klings, Pat Kreschollek, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Loretta Malloy, Roseann McCarty, Bridget McHugh, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Nancy Moreno, Helene Nastro, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Helen Pepkowski, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Beatrice Bohm Rogers, Barbara Sabbath, Adriana Salvucci, Thomas Shepherd, Bella Sosa, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer

*If someone no longer needs prayers, please advise the Parish Office so that we may keep the list up-to-date.*

**OUR TROOPS:**

Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, David Fisher, Anthony James Fleck, Michael Froeder, A.J. Giovino, Aaron Given, Michael Griffin, Matthew Gumprecht, Bob Hankinson, Victor Hormilla, Aileen Lauer, Stephen Lindmeier, Dan O'Connor, McKenna Pason, Dusty Rhodes, Steven Salva, Kate Salva, Jack Salva, Ann Salva, Steven Siegert, Kendall Smith



***May God protect and watch over our troops.***



**A Prayer for OUR FIRST RESPONDERS:**

*Lord, please watch over all the men & women who work as first responders. We pray for their safety and that they return to their families at the end of each shift. We give thanks for their selfless service, compassion and care for everyone. We ask this through Christ our Lord. Amen*



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[PhiladelphiaCatholicCemeteries.com](http://PhiladelphiaCatholicCemeteries.com)

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