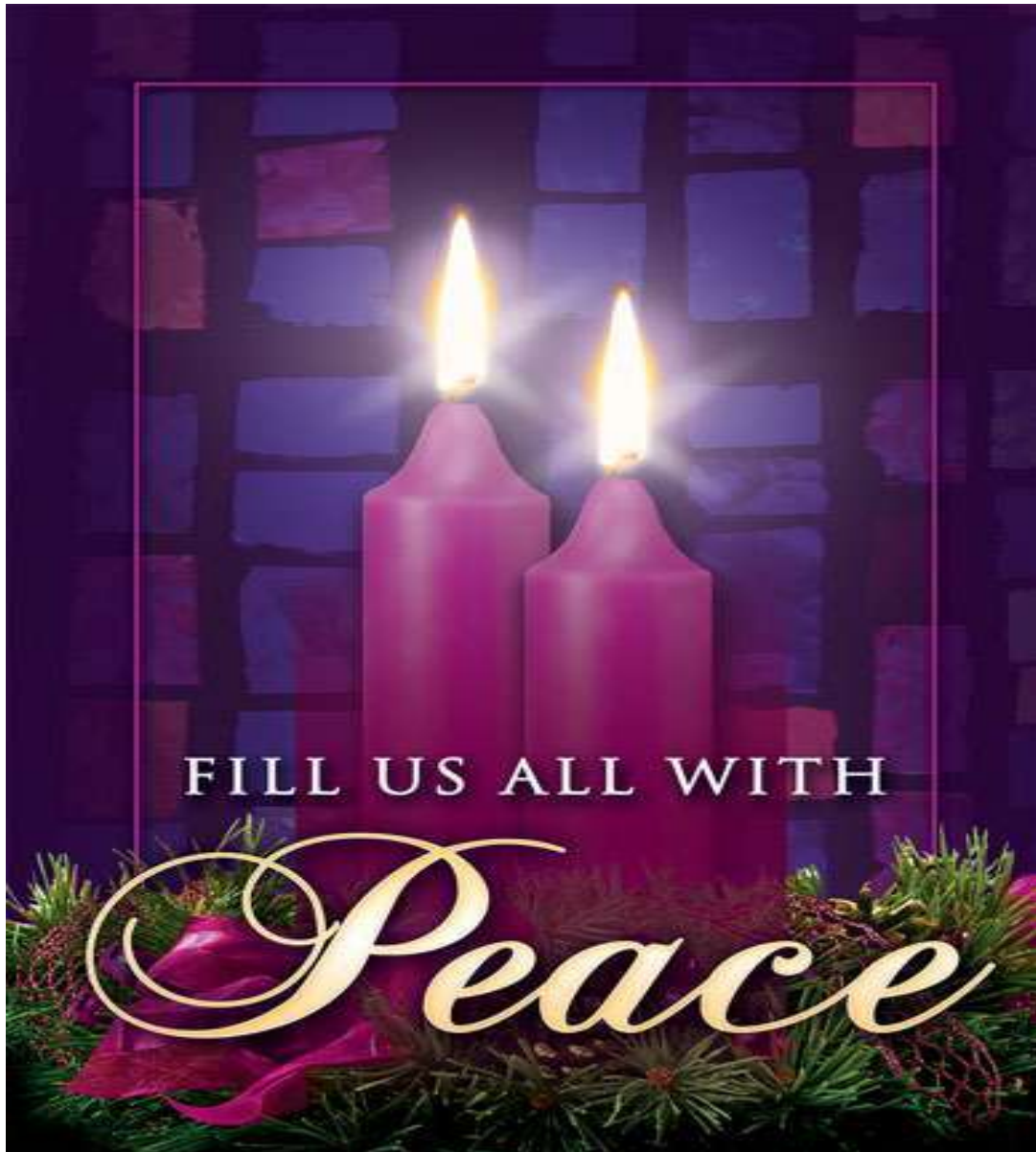


DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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



Thank you for attending Mass with us today, we are glad you came!
Fr. Lucas and the parish family of St. John the Baptist
would like to welcome all our visitors and new members.

PARISH STAFF

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

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Mon- Fri: 9:00am (Thursday at old St. John's Church)
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm
CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:00pm - 4:20pm or by appt.

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

Certificates of Eligibility to act as Godparent or Sponsor may be issued only to registered parishioners who have been registered here at St. John the Baptist Parish at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, have received all their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their faith in our parish. If married, your marriage must have been witnessed and blessed by a Catholic Priest or have special permission approved by the Archbishop. A person who has left the Catholic Faith for any reason is not eligible to be a sponsor and, therefore, we cannot issue a Certificate of Eligibility.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism may be scheduled



to take place on a Saturday at 10am or 11am; or on a Sunday at 11:45am (immediately following the 10:30am Mass). 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 8th – December 14th, 2025

Monday: Immaculate Conception Parishioners' Intentions
Tuesday: † Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: † Bill Saxton (*A Friend*)
Thursday: † James Wismer (*Brother Ed*)
Friday: † Sandy Slater (*Laura Gumprecht*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm: † Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Sunday 8am: † Patricia Stangil (*Her Family*)
Sunday 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Parish Office will be closed on Monday, December 8th for Immaculate Conception

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

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

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

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

November 23rd - Envelopes \$3,524 * E-Giving \$1,738
November 30th – Envelopes \$8,726 * E-Giving \$1,824

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 07: Advent Book Club – St. Augustine Rm - 9:15am
Mon. Dec 08: Prayer Shawl - Marian Room – 6:30pm
Tue. Dec 09: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Dec 10: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Nov 10: Prayers of Petition* - via Zoom - 7:00pm

*** EMAIL LAURA AT sibevangel@stjohnsottsville.org TO JOIN IN PRAYER, OR TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS.**

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!



This weekend the **Nitty Gritty Garden Club** invites you to take a stroll in our **Winter Wonderland** in the Narthex. Poinsettias and grave blankets will be displayed along with fresh green arrangements, outdoor bird-seed ornaments of all different sizes and Epiphany blessing sign kits. Don't forget to pick up your poinsettia and grave blanket orders.

Santa's garden elves truly appreciate your much needed support!

From Your Pastor-

We see people preparing themselves to be skillful, successful in exams, interviews, new ventures, etc. We truly believe that preparation is a necessity to succeed or compete with others so that we can grab the victories for ourselves. As we give importance to so many preparations, are we serious enough to prepare ourselves to receive our Lord in our hearts?

There may be an unfathomable gap between worldly life and spiritual life. John the Baptist reminds us all to prepare our hearts clean and be vigilant to receive our Lord. By receiving Him and having a strong conviction on Him, we are asked to prepare ourselves to imbibe the six characteristics which are mentioned in the first reading: spirit of wisdom and insight, the spirit of counsel and power, the spirit of knowledge and fear of God. So that we may try to accept others, live in union of hearts and minds, and bring love, peace, justice, and equality in reality as Jesus did.

Dear Lord, as we live in this technological world, we are carried away by worldly things and give lots of importance to other needs and preparations. May we imbibe your wisdom to give importance to the dire need of receiving you amidst us to change ourselves and to spread the values of the Kingdom.

Yours in Jesus Christ,

Rev. S. Lucas, MSC

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish



PRAYERS TO ST. PEREGRINE

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

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering.

Holy Communion for the Sick & Homebound



Are you or a family member unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion? If you'd like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521.

We will make arrangements to bring the Lord to you.



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.



THE LORD'S PANTRY Giving Tree

is set up in the Narthex.

ALL gifts need to be in the form of gift cards.

Gifts must have the original "Gift Tag" taken off the Christmas tree attached to the gift for identification purposes.

Gift cards may be purchased through the Parish Office.

Gifts need to be placed back under the tree by Monday, December 15th at the latest!

Thank you and God Bless!



We will be selling gift cards in the Narthex after all Masses this weekend in support of the Lord's Pantry Giving Tree and for your own Christmas shopping list. Please stop by our booth to purchase, place orders, or ask any questions. Remember, these cards benefit the Parish and you, at no cost to you! Thank you.

Christmas Cookie Swap *this weekend!*



You are cordially invited to the Christmas Cookie Swap this Sunday Dec 7th at 11:30am in the Marian Room.

Light refreshments will be provided by the Evangelization Team.

MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR



Tables will be set up in the Narthex during the month of December after the Masses. All proceeds will be used for the maintenance of SJB. **THANK YOU!**



"December is a month of enormous potential. It's a time when we can all give and receive, a time when the spirit of humanity shines brightest." — *Michael Josephson*

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-

Would you please consider donating these items this month?

pineapple slices – sugar - baking items

Beef Ramen - whole tomatoes - Chunky soups

juice – tea – coffee

Giant or dollar store gift cards are also appreciated!

You will benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staples and help them enjoy a blessed holiday season. We believe that with God's blessings and the help of our community, we can show our support for those most in need. Thank you for your loving generosity!

God bless, The Lord's Pantry Volunteers



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 7th
TEAM 5**

This is a once per month commitment.

NEXT WEEKEND - PLEASE STOP BY! PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS

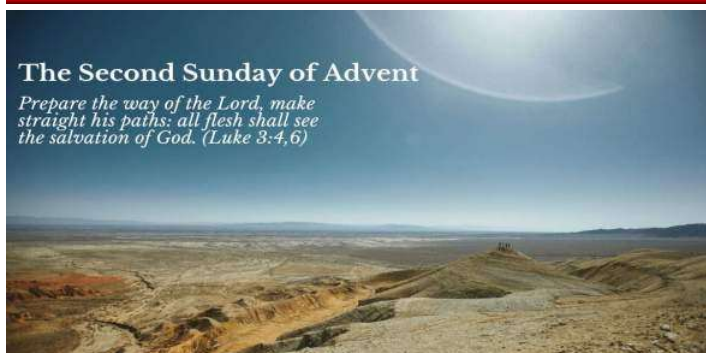


Next weekend we will have a Parish Social after each Mass. All are welcome to stay, enjoy hospitality & get to know your church family.

We will be selling and taking orders for gift cards after all the Masses next weekend. Please visit us in the Narthex to get your order form and sign-up for program benefits!

The Second Sunday of Advent

Prepare the way of the Lord, make straight his paths: all flesh shall see the salvation of God. (Luke 3:4,6)



A Message from The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Greetings from Across Campus

This week at Regina Academy, we joyfully entered into the season of Advent, a time of hope and anticipation. Each day, our students have been trimming the Jesse Tree, adding ornaments that tell the story of salvation history and remind us that Christ's birth is the fulfillment of God's promises. Alongside this tradition, our families began praying the St. Andrew Novena, also known as the Christmas Anticipation Prayer. This beautiful devotion helps us focus our hearts on the moment of Christ's birth, asking that our prayers be heard and our desires granted through the merits of Jesus and His Blessed Mother. What a blessing it is to walk together in faith as we prepare for the coming of our Savior.

We ended the week with a joyful celebration of family at our beloved Father-Daughter Dance. This annual tradition is more than an evening of music and laughter; it is a cherished reminder of the bonds that strengthen our homes, parishes, and community. Seeing fathers and daughters share such joy was a powerful witness to the love that sustains us and the faith that unites us.

As we continue through Advent, we give thanks for our parish family whose prayers and support make these moments possible. May this season draw us all closer to Christ, the true light of the world.

Blessings in Advent, **Brian Dulin**, President
Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR
MORE PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE?
JOIN US AT FATIMA HOUSE



On Mondays at 7 PM and Wednesdays at 10 AM we have an Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We pray the "Liturgy of the Hours", the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. No experience necessary!

DAILY AND OVERNIGHT RETREATS

FOR PRAYER REQUESTS & INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL JOAN BLACK AT 215-795-2947

SJB COMMUNITY OUTREACH



ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE CLOTHING DRIVE

"Whatsoever you do to the least of my brothers, that you do unto me".

– Jesus

Once again, we will be collecting donations for St. John's Hospice for Homeless Men in Center City, Philadelphia. Bins will be in the narthex beginning January 3rd through January 18th. Monetary donations will be welcomed as well as the wish list items below.

CLOTHING: NEW OR GENTLY USED ITEMS ACCEPTED! Underwear (boxer briefs), Thermal underwear, Socks, Undershirts – (size Large and up), Pants (size 30-38 are most needed), Shorts sizes 30-38 are most needed), Sweat Suits, Shirts, Coats, Gloves, Scarves, Hats, Winter boots, Men's sneakers, Leather belts – all sizes or adjustable, Men's belts – braided

TOILETRIES: Please remember to save travel-size toiletries when you are staying in hotels! We can also use the following 'full-size' items for residents and to refill travel-size toiletries handed out to day-service guests.

Body Wash, Shaving Cream, Shampoo, Disposable Razors, Moisturizer, Toothbrushes, Hand Lotion, Toothpaste, Bar Soap, Dental Floss, Deodorant, Mouthwash, Body Powder, Hair Dressing/Grease, Lip Balm, Combs

BEDDING/MISC: Pillows – standard size, Blankets, Full size bath towels, New Twin size white fitted sheets, New White pillow cases – standard size, Men's backpacks, Thick Wash cloths – assorted colors, Headphones for computers

Check out their website for additional ways to donate! saintjohnshospice.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman
Mike Kirk - President/Moderator
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Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

Online Contributing Made Easy



Please visit our website www.stjohnsottsville.org and click on the **Parish**

Giving link above. Follow the prompts to join our e-giving program. For information, please call the Parish Office.

Hope for Light

Carols from Around the World
featuring Benjamin Britten - Ceremony of Carols
with Elaine Christy, harp & Timothy Harrell, organ

Saturday, December 13 @ 4:00pm
Sunday, December 14 @ 4:00pm
St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, PA

There is no better source of light in the darkness than Benjamin Britten's brilliant and heartfelt Ceremony of Carols. This will be our third performance of this work with the incomparable harpist, Elaine Christy. In the intimate space of St. Paul's Lutheran Church, Doylestown, tickets for these concerts will be going fast!



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD

A big thank you to all the children and families who participated in OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD this year.

125 Christmas gift boxes were lovingly filled by the students of Saint John's PREP and the Regina Academy. These boxes will be shipped by Samaritan's Purse to children in need around the world in Jesus' Name.

A heartfelt "Thank You" to the Prayer Shawl Ministry for contributing crocheted squares with an enclosed prayer which were added to the gift boxes.

For more information or to make a contribution visit samaritanspurse.org.

Parents of New Students of any grade level for 2025-26 should contact the Parish Office: prep@stjohnsottsville.org or 610-847-5521.

Parents/Guardians of 7th grade students, who are parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church who are attending Catholic School and who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Church in 2026, should contact the Director of Religious Education at prep@stjohnsottsville.org.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Our Father Stommel Council #4545 meets every 3rd Monday at 7:30pm. For information or to join, Contact **Grand Knight Mark Janik** KofC4545@aol.com

DECEMBER 7TH, 2025 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 8th, 2025
December 13th & 14th, 2025

Immaculate Conception
3rd Sunday of Advent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Immaculate Conception MONDAY 9:00AM	Needed	Needed	Needed	Martin Elsner
Immaculate Conception MONDAY 7:00PM	Needed	Needed	Needed	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Adam Crews Weez Roney Kim Zampirri	Christina Crews	Siobhan & Amalia Crews Christine Wimpenny	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8AM	Nina Carlineo Nancy Kaczinski Mary Kosmin	Marie Burke	3 Volunteers Needed	Anita Colahan Sue Rogers
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Black Leona Russell Patty Salva	Patti Keyser	Elia, Fatu & Siri Logaivau	Sue Rogers SJB Choir



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



OUR SICK:

Jessie Alfaro, Caleb Cerino, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Wanda Bickel, Loretta Bodisch, Lillian Buckley, Brent Camilleri, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin & Arlene Eichlin, Carol Engel, Christie Feikel, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Barney Fontenot, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Emilio J. Gonzales, Kathy Hancharik, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Kimberly Markulec, Rosanne McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, Ethan Meyers, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Helene Nastro, Dennis O'Connell, Jeff Olimpo, Mike Palmer, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Mary Pucci, Janet Reidler, Thomas Rimmer, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, Barbara Sabath, Adriana Salvucci, Lisa Saxton, Thomas Shepherd, Megan Slabicki, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, Bernadette Strzelecki, Riley Telesco, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Danielle Watson, Ed Wismer, Judy Woodroffe

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone you know, please call the Parish Office or email tojo@epix.net.
If someone no longer needs prayers, please advise the Parish Office so that we may keep the list up to date.

OUR TROOPS:



May God protect and watch over our troops



Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, David Fisher, Anthony J. Fleck, Joseph V. Fleck, Lane Charles Frankenfield, 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, Kathryn Salva, Jack Salva, Anne Salva, Thomas Salva, Jared Scott, Steven Siegert, Kendall Smith

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

A Prayer for OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

James Gammello, Gianna Gammello, Natalie Nice, Violet Williams

Heavenly Father, we lift up all college students to You today. We ask that You surround them with Your protection, keep them safe, guard their health and keep them strong and well. Protect their spiritual and emotional well-being as well. Keep them from negative influences and temptation, and ground them in faith, wisdom, and Your word. Grant them the discernment to make wise choices and the courage to flee evil. Please go where we cannot, give strength where we are weak, and bring them safely home. May they feel Your presence and know Your love surrounding them each and every day. We trust in Your power to protect and guide them. Amen.



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