

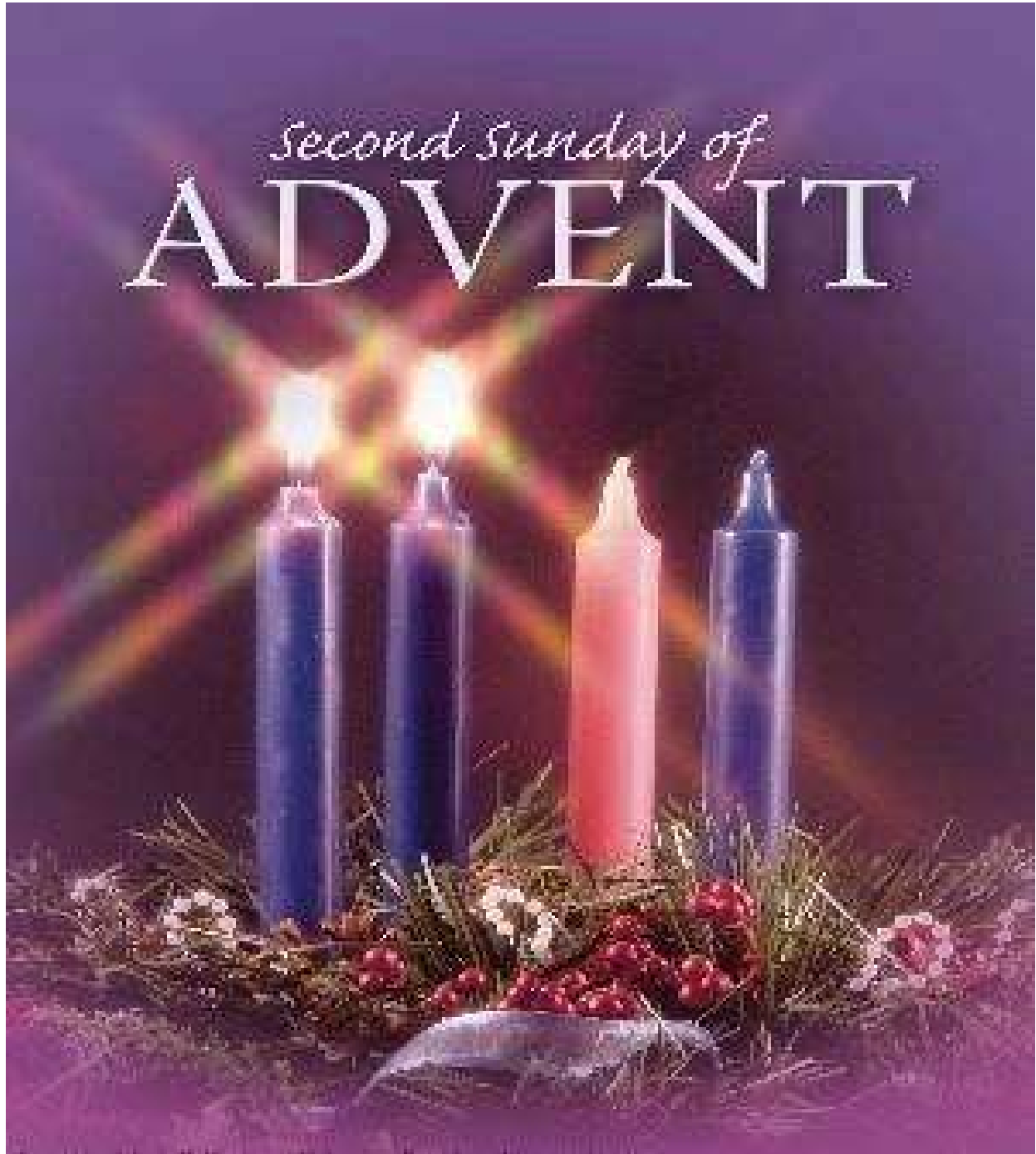
December 10th, 2023 – 2nd SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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!

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 11 – December 17, 2023

Monday: † Sandy Slater (*Laura Gumprecht*)
Tuesday: † Jim Wismer (*Ed Wismer*)
Wednesday: † Marie Sirianni (*A Friend*)
Thursday: † Ron Maisenhalter (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)
Friday: † Elizabeth Petritsch (*Loving Husband*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: † Ethel Fachet (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)
Sunday 10:30am: † Bill Saxton (*Donna Sciacca*)

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.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 3rd Envelopes **Not Available** E-Giving \$1,927
Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 10: Advent Bible Study - Marian Room – 9:00am
Sun. Dec 10: Conquest/Challenge – School – 11:30am-2pm
Tue. Dec 12: Prayer Shawl - Marian Room – 7:00pm
Tue. Dec 12: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm
Wed. Dec 13: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm
Sat. Dec 16: Men of Faith – Marian Room – 9:00am
Sun. Dec 17: K of C Christmas Party – School Gym – Noon-3:00pm

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!



Please pray for the
repose of the soul of
**Uldine Rocchina
Kervick**

Advent Penance Service

Monday, December 11th at 6:30pm
In the Main Church for all parishioners.

First Reconciliation

Children making their First Reconciliation will
be receiving their sacrament on Monday,
December 11th at 6:30pm in the Chapel.

FROM YOUR PASTOR

This Sunday's first reading says that the Jewish people who were in exile had no freedom to celebrate their own faith. Israelites longed to return to their own land and to rebuild the temple of the Lord. As in every society, we find some people who do not want to return because they knew that returning would be full of hardships. This is a parallel to our own lives today. We are in exile because of our sins. Not everyone today wants to turn to the Lord because the Lord makes demands on our lives.

In the Gospel of today, John, too, invites people to amend their old ways of life and come to the baptism of repentance. The consoling and comforting words of the prophets can be applicable to us only if we are living according to the Word of the Lord and recognize that we cannot return without grace. If we have tried to be faithful and find ourselves failing again, then surely the comforting words of Isaiah speak to us.

The second reading reminds us that it is God who wants to give us comfort but can only do so insofar as our hearts are open and waiting for Him. Advent is a beautiful time set apart to prepare ourselves to celebrate the nativity of our Lord by returning to Him, recognizing the love we have received in abundance from Him.

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

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

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



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

PARISH SOCIAL After Mass This Weekend!

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

PLEASE STOP BY! Hope to see you!



NATIONAL MARCH FOR LIFE FRIDAY, JANUARY 19TH, 2024

A bus has been reserved for St. John & 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. 17th, 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. 19th, 2024.

Please help decorate our church for Christmas



We are in need of volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. If you would like to help, the date is Friday morning, December 22nd at 10:30am. If you wish to help, please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947. (If you get the answering machine and it says Fatima House, you didn't get the wrong number!)

Thank you & God Bless, Joan



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 10th
TEAM 1**

This is a once per month commitment.

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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

5th 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 - 610-847-5523.



**THE LORD'S PANTRY
GIVING TREE**

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 this Sunday, December 10th.

Thank you and God Bless You!



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 or call Karly Harney at (267) 337-6060.



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**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



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 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. 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 26th through Dec 17th 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 13th - Apr 14th, 2024: an overnight retreat at the Czestochowa Shrine **"Live the Mass"**



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.

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

Arise! Youth Evening of Adoration

Live music, reflection, 1-on-1 Healing Procession, Intercessory Prayer Teams, and Sacrament of Reconciliation

Sunday, December 10 at St. Andrews

81 Swamp Rd, Newtown, PA 18940



Starts at 6:00pm, Evening ends with social at 9:00pm

Event open to 8th through 12th grade teens | Teens must be accompanied by minister or parent/guardian | We invite you to bring snacks to share!

For details visit www.PhillyOMY.org | #PhillyOMY



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IN OUR LADY'S CHAPEL

MONDAY EVENING AT 7 PM – 8 PM
WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 AM -11AM
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament, rosary, Chaplet of
Divine Mercy and Liturgy of the Hours

ON THE 1ST 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

Saturday, December 16, 2023 7:00-9:00pm



Living Drive-thru Nativity

Come experience the miracle of the Christmas story presented with live characters and animals. Plus receive a bag of home-baked Christmas cookies! **This is a free event.**

Location: Grounds of Nativity of Our Lord Parish.
605 West Street Rd., Warminster, PA 18974

More info: Ann Marie Gervino, agervino@noolp.org

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman
Ted Fahy - President
Marie Burke - Secretary
Peg Glancey - Moderator
Helene Bell, Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht,
Nancy Kaczinski, Stephen Kutra, 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
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Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative

DECEMBER 10TH, 2023 – 2ND SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 16th & 17th, 2023

3rd Sunday of Advent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Dot Cegielski Peg Glancey	Jane Ferry	Alyssa Byers Julia Byers Brady Mattle	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8AM	Tom Keller Bea Romaszewski	Jeanne Keller	Alaina Butler Need 2 Volunteers	Patty Leidner Sue Rogers
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Wendy DeGroot Laura Gumprecht	Sean Lynch	Melissa Demusz Khloe Demusz Need 1 Volunteer	Sue Rogers SJB Choir



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, **Xavier McDonald**, 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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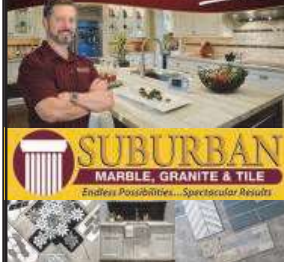
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