

DECEMBER 14TH, 2025 – 3RD 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

Rejoice in the Lord Always: Gaudete Sunday



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.

OPARISH 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 15th – December 21st, 2025

Monday: † Jerry & Elizabeth Petritsch (*Geri Petrei*)
Tuesday: † Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: Intentions of Michael Colahan (*Anita Colahan*)
Thursday: Intentions of Jim Black (*Joan Beebe*)
Friday: † Marie Louzon (*Georgina Puente*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm: Intentions of Liz Tolkach (*Anita Colahan*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: † Freeh-Johnson Family (*David & Mary Grace Tillotson*)

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 7th – Not Available

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 14: Advent Book Club – St. Augustine Rm - 9:15am
Mon. Dec 15: K of C Council Mtg – Marian Room - 7:30pm
Tue. Dec 16: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Dec 17: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Nov 17: 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 - PLEASE STOP BY!
PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS



This 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 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.

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!**

From Your Pastor-

In the third week of the Advent season, the readings continue to explain to us the message of hopeful promise and blessings of the coming of Messiah. The passage from Isaiah offers a glorious image of the return of the remnants back to Zion. God comes to bring the shattered and broken people in servitude back to the original glory from which they have been driven away because of their wayward living. He pays disloyalty of the covenant people with His steadfast love. He did that, sending the prophets in the olden days and finally, through the blood of His Son.

He comes to us every day and every minute seeking our communion with Him. James offers a beautiful metaphor to show us the model of waiting. He asks us to wait like a farmer who waits patiently for the crop. How should we prepare ourselves so that we receive Him when He comes? In the Gospel, Jesus gives us the model of John the Baptist. We need to be messengers like John the Baptist, who prepared people to welcome the Lord. When the Lord comes, He will long to see us doing what He has willed for us - being sight to the blind, strength to the lame, solace to the leper, ears to the hearing-impaired, hope to the poor and voice to the voiceless.

Lord, give us your grace to realize your presence in our day-to-day life. We cannot change the reality immediately but can turn our eyes to become messengers like John the Baptist to prepare ourselves and our neighbors to receive you.

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.



**K of C and
Regina Academy**



Annual Christmas Party

**Dec 14, 2025 • 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. No fee to attend.

Donations for the Lord's Pantry are encouraged and appreciated at this time of year. There will be a box dedicated for items donated to the Pantry at the RA school foyer / entrance.

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





THE LORD'S PANTRY Giving Tree

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 this Monday, December 15th at the latest!
Thank you and God Bless!

December "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 14th TEAM 1

This is a once per month commitment.



GAUDETE SUNDAY
THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

The word "Gaudete" is Latin for "Rejoice." In times when the focus of our anticipation is often on the negative and fearful, this celebration is a reminder that God who loves us is still in charge and that we await his coming not with fear, but with tremendous joy.

8634-9098 @SRPBagumbayan



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

Greetings from Across Campus

As winter settles in, our children have been joyfully bundling up to enjoy recess outdoors, their laughter reminding us that even in the cold, God's warmth surrounds us.

This Advent season has already been filled with blessings. Our dedicated student council members visited the MSC Villa, bringing joy to the retired priests through a shared lunch and beautiful music. The smiles exchanged and memories created were a powerful witness to the love between generations of faith.

We also celebrated the close of our first trimester with an awards ceremony, honoring the hard work and accomplishments of our students. Each month, we highlight a virtue, and last month's focus was Charity. Watching our children strive to live out this virtue; in their studies, friendships, and service has been truly inspiring. Their efforts remind us that the seeds of faith and virtue planted today will bear fruit for years to come.

We are grateful for the prayers and support of our parish family, which make these moments possible. May this Advent continue to draw us all closer to Christ, whose coming we await with joy and hope.

God bless, **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 pillowcases – 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

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Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht, Nancy Kaczinski,

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Father Lucas - Chairman

Mike Kirk - President/Moderator

Chris Hackley - Chief Financial Advisor / Mary Kosmin - Secretary

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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.

NEXT SUNDAY

Please help decorate our church for Christmas



We are in need of volunteers to help the SJB Altar Society and Nitty Gritty Garden Club decorate for Christmas. If you would like to help, Christmas decorating will follow the 10:30 Mass on December 21st.

Many hands make light work - we appreciate your support. God bless!



PLEASE WELCOME BISHOP COOKE AS HE CELEBRATES THE CHRISTMAS EVE MASS AT 4:30 ON WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 24TH.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

SJB NITTY GRITTY GARDEN CLUB



Dear Friends – Thank you for supporting our Winter Wonderland Sale.

God's Blessings be upon you!

DECEMBER 14TH, 2025 – 3RD SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 20th & 21st, 2025

4th Sunday of Advent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Lynn & Gianna Gammello Weez Roney	Liz Torgerson	Julia & Alyssa Byers Christine Wimpenny	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh	Marie Burke	Alaina Butler 2 Volunteers Needed	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Samantha Campbell Laura Gumprecht Ward Van Haute	Sean Lynch	Melissa & Khloe Demusz Hezekiah Van Haute	Echoes of Christ



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 Melchior, 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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