#### December 17th, 2023 - 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



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

**M**ASS 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

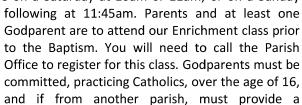
CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or by appt.

**Register in the Parish**: Please contact the Parish Office

to register when you move into our parish.

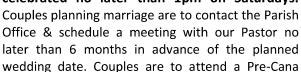
**Certificates of Eligibility:** May be issued only to registered parishioners who currently reside within our parish boundaries, who have been registered parishioners at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, who have received all of their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their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



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.



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 18 - December 24, 2023

Monday: + Vicky Pepkowski (John Kuklinski) Tuesday: + Dr. Jack Bryan (Mike & Colette Kirk) Wednesday: † Nikolaus Kampf (Kathi, Joey & Liz) Thursday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (Family) Friday: † Jack Glancey (Peg Glancey)

#### **Weekend Masses**

Saturday 5pm: + Bill Saxton (Harold Rick) Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions

Sunday 10:30am: + John Sabath (His Wife Barbara)

#### 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 3<sup>rd</sup> Envelopes \$4,589 \* E-Giving \$1,927 **December 8th Immaculate Conception \$861** December 10<sup>th</sup> Envelopes \$4,282 \* E-Giving \$1,955 Thank you for your generosity!

#### **WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS**

Sun. Dec 17: Advent Bible Study - Marian Room - 9:00am Sun. Dec 17: K of C Christmas Party - School Gym - Noon-3:00pm Mon. Dec 18: K of C Council Meeting – School Gym – 7:30pm

Tue. Dec 19: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm

Wed. Dec 20: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm Sat. Dec 23: Men of Faith – Marian Room – 9:00am

#### 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!



"The greatest love story of all time Is contained in a tiny white Host." Archbishop Fulton Sheen

Thank you for being part of this love story and being present at Mass to nourish yourself and all others who gather with us. In this time of Eucharistic Revival, invite someone you know who has been away from Mass, to join you for Christmas or one of the Sundays of the weeks to come.

#### 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 is coming 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 worthily 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 hearingimpaired, hope to the poor and voice to the voiceless.

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 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.



#### **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. 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.

#### 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 22<sup>nd</sup> 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



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

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# The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist is Hiring!

The only Catholic school classical Bucks County is ardent seeking 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.

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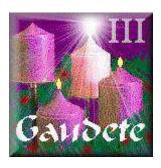
Please direct resumés and questions to Tami Koerber, Head of School, <a href="mailto:tkoerber@rasjb.org">tkoerber@rasjb.org</a> - 610-847-5523.

#### 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

#### Gaudete Sunday (/gaʊˈdɛtɛ/ gow-DET-eh)



is the third Sunday of Advent in the liturgical calendar of Western Christianity, including the Roman Catholic Church, the Anglican Communion, Lutheran Churches, and other mainline Protestant churches. It can fall on any date from 11 December to 17 December.

The season of Advent originated as a fast of 40 days in preparation for Christmas, commencing on the day after the feast of Saint Martin (11 November), whence it was often called Saint Martin's Lent, a name by which it was known as early as the fifth century. In the ninth century, the duration of Advent was reduced to four weeks (a period starting four Sundays before Christmas), and Advent preserved most of the characteristics of a penitential season, which made it a kind of counterpart to Lent. Gaudete Sunday is a counterpart to Laetare Sunday, and provides a similar break about midway through a season which is otherwise of a penitential character, and signifies the nearness of the Lord's coming.[2]

The spirit of the liturgy throughout Advent is one of expectation and preparation for the feast of Christmas as well as for the second coming of Christ, and the penitential exercises suitable to that spirit are thus on Gaudete Sunday suspended, as it were, for a while, in order to symbolize that joy and gladness in the promised Redemption.

#### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

for children who attend public school, private non-Catholic school, or athome 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.

# 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) 337-5060.



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## WE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HAVE PLANNED THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

- 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 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.
- 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"

# 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



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ON THE 1" 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



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.

#### 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 23<sup>rd</sup>, 24<sup>th</sup> & 25<sup>th</sup>, 2023

#### 4th Sunday of Advent & Christmas

December 23	, 24 & 25 , 2025 This			iii a Ciii istiiias
	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Lisa Saxton Marion Wolf	Kim Zampirri	Gretchen Meyers Joel Roney Jacob Roney	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 8AM	Need 2 Volunteers	Marie Burke	Need 3 Volunteers	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Beebe Claire Froman	Need 1 Volunteer	Need 3 Volunteers	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
CHRISTMAS EVE SUNDAY 5PM	Joan Black Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh Donna Nice	Sean Lynch	Alyssa Byers Julia Byers Elia Logaivau Fatu Logaivau	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY 9AM	Frank Balbirer Peg Glancey Renee Moyer Marion Wolf	Kim Zampirri	Alaina Butler Gretchen Meyers	Ordinary Time
CHRISTMAS DAY MONDAY 10:30AM	Wendy DeGroot Tom Keller Lisa Saxton Becca Van Haute	Jeanne Keller	Audrey Van Haute Hezekiah Van Haute Max Van Haute	Echoes of Christ



# 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 Klinges, 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 Sabath, Adriana Salvucci, Thomas Shepherd, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, 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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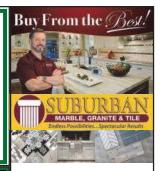
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