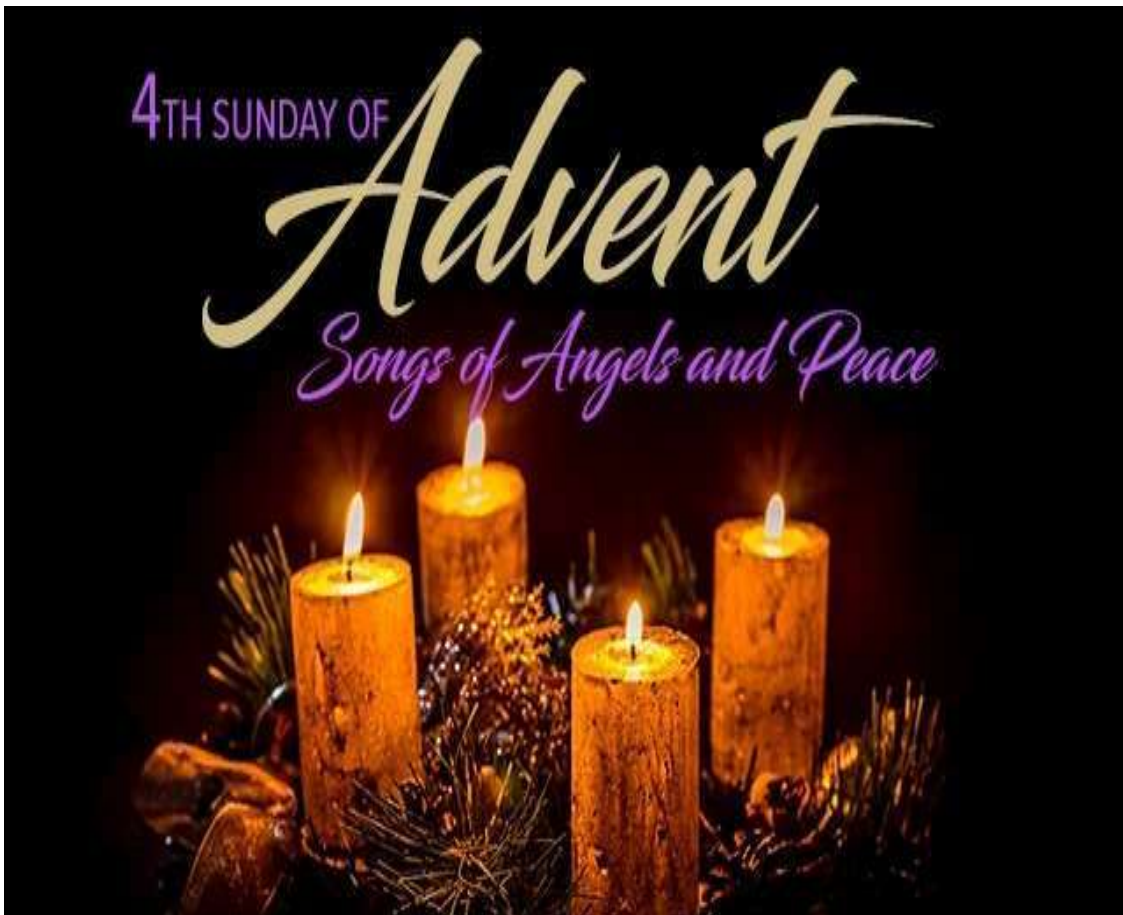


DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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 22nd – December 28th, 2025

Monday: † Jack Glancey (*Peg Glancey*)
Tuesday: † Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: **CHRISTMAS EVE** Parishioners' Intentions
Thursday: **CHRISTMAS DAY** Parishioners' Intentions
Friday: Intentions of Nick Pacitti (*Anita Colahan*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm: † Ann C. Lapsley (*John F. Lapsley, Jr.*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: † Yolanda & Joseph Astarita (*Joanne & Jerry Peters*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Parish Office will close at 1PM on Tuesday, December 23rd and will re-open Monday, January 5th.
To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas, through the Parish Office.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 14th – Not Available

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Dec 21: Advent Book Club – St. Augustine Rm - 9:15am
Tue. Dec 23: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Dec 24: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Nov 24: 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!

Please pray for the Repose of the Soul of

MICHAEL MORENI

**Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord,
and let perpetual light shine upon them.
May they rest in peace. Amen**



Please welcome
Bishop Cooke as he celebrates the
Christmas Eve Mass at 4:30 on
Wednesday, December 24th.

From Your Pastor-

The three readings of the day highly revolve around the incarnation of Jesus. Most often, we take it for granted and throw ourselves into an ineffable joy. However, we can't afford to be ignorant of the pain, suffering, and agony of any birth. For, giving birth is itself always a rebirth and more so for the birth of Jesus.

The mental agony of Mother Mary must have been immense to pierce through her heart. Without romanticizing the birth of Jesus, we need to understand the miserable helplessness and plight of Mother Mary from the social perspective of Israel. Given the nature of the law-abiding society of Israel, giving birth to a child before marriage or without a husband is a crime of stoning to death. Feel how things would have boiled around her; the tough, harsh, ferocious, abusive, wounding and humiliating words. What was a blessing in the sight of God has become a curse in the sight of people.

Certainly, Mother Mary would have gotten painful experiences as an ordinary woman. Yet she kept things quite calm. Precisely this made her blessed. It takes courage to stand calm in the face of difficulties. This is the inspiration we need to draw from the incarnation of Jesus. Life never promises a cakewalk. The question is, are we strong enough like our Mother? Our life becomes a blessing with all its challenges and difficulties. Can we challenge the obstacles without being very naive?

We pray that we side with God like our Mother and stand calm in the face of difficulties.

**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.

This SUNDAY



Please help the SJB Altar Society and Nitty Gritty Garden Club decorate our church for Christmas. Decorating will follow the 10:30 Mass.

Hope to see you there!



We will be selling gift cards in the Narthex after all Masses this weekend for the last-minute gifts on your Christmas shopping list!

Gift card orders will be available for pick-up.



MINI CHRISTMAS BAZAAR

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

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH CHRISTMAS & NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

**CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
WEDNESDAY 4:30PM**

**CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
THURSDAY 8AM & 10:30AM**

**NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
WEDNESDAY 4:30PM**

**THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS
(NEW YEAR'S DAY)
THURSDAY 9AM**

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST FINANCE REPORT

Summary Fiscal Statement for July 1, 2024 through June 30, 2025

INCOME

Offertory/Religious Education/Stole Fees	483,565
Donations and Bequests (Note 1)	78,519
Interest/Religious Ed Fees	18,025
Rent from Regina Academy (Note 2)	200
Total Revenue	580,308

EXPENSES

Routine Maintenance and Repairs/Utilities	63,018
Major Maintenance Refurbishments (Note 3)	197,807
Archdiocesan Assessments	64,400
Salaries and Benefits/Honoraria/Insurance	297,433
Church and Liturgical/Religious Education	62,127
School Building Maintenance/Utilities.....	28,874
Total Expenses	713,657
Change in Net Assets carried over to current fiscal year (Note 4)	(133,350)

FINANCIAL STATEMENT NOTES

The Parish Finance Council met on November 11th, 2025 to review the full fiscal year (July 1, 2024 - June 30, 2025).

The Council expressed satisfaction and recommended that a summary fiscal statement be published in the parish bulletin, as provided above.

Finance Council Members:

Father Lucas, Ted Fahy, Chris Hackley, Mike Kirk, Mary Kosmin, Jim McHugh, Mary Miller, Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters & Carolyn Marchese (Business Manager)

Notes:

#1: Donations and Bequests include Capital Campaign donations of \$58,800.

#2: We are having on-going discussions with the Regina Academy regarding financial support, variable utility costs, and maintenance costs.

#3: Major Maintenance Refurbishments include \$22,943 for the school building's new fire alarm system (to be donated by a parishioner) and \$174,864 in chapel, altar and tower renovations falling under the Capital Campaign; all received during Fiscal Year 2025.

#4: We were able to "bridge" the deficit with prior years' accumulated savings. However, our forthcoming Capital Campaign is necessary to both replenish and finish phases 2,3 and 4.

The original mortgage (2003) amount was \$1 million; payments are made annually by terms of the mortgage. (Current balance is \$45,000)



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

Greetings from Across Campus-

As our students begin their Christmas break, we pause to celebrate the many blessings of this past week. We honored the close of the First Trimester with awards recognizing the exemplary work, perseverance, and dedication of each grade. The commitment our children show in their studies and daily school life is a true reflection of their growth in both character and faith.

We also launched our CYO Basketball season, marking the return of spirited competition to the Academy. While the outcome of the first game was not what we had hoped, our athletes displayed tremendous energy, teamwork, and joy; qualities that shine brighter than any scoreboard.

Another highlight was our participation in the Knights of Columbus "Keep Christ in Christmas" art competition. We extend heartfelt congratulations to winners Blythe Rojas, Tina Baratelli, and Henry Baratelli, whose designs beautifully embodied the message of keeping Christ at the center of the season.

As we enter into Christmas, the students and staff of the Academy send warm wishes to our parish family. May the light of Christ fill your homes with peace and joy, and may His presence continue to guide and illuminate your path throughout the coming year.

Blessings in Christ, **Brian Oulin**, 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



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 21st
TEAM 2**

This is a once per month commitment.

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



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.

Contact Grand Knight Mark Janik KofC4545@aol.com

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
Chris Hackley - Chief Financial Advisor / Mary Kosmin - Secretary
Jim McHugh, Mary Miller, Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

DECEMBER 21ST, 2025 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 24th & 25th, 2025
December 27th & 28th, 2025

**Christmas Eve & Christmas Day
The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
Christmas Eve WEDNESDAY 4:30PM	Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh Shelby Rogers	Anne Slifer	Julia & Alyssa Byers Christine Wimpenny	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
Christmas Day THURSDAY 8:00AM	Mary Kosmin 2 Volunteers Needed	Liz Torgerson	Alaina Butler 2 Volunteers Needed	Ordinary Time
Christmas Day THURSDAY 10:30AM	Laura Gumprecht Robyn Piccinic 1 Volunteer Needed	Needed	3 Volunteers Needed	Echoes of Christ
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Peg Glancey Weez Roney Kim Zampirri	Patti Keyser	Rita Elsner Christine Wimpenny 1 Volunteer Needed	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 8AM	Nancy Kaczinski Renee Moyer Donna Nice	Marie Burke	3 Volunteers Needed	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Black Samantha Campbell Patty Salva	Frank Balbirer	Elia, Fatu & Siri Logaivau	Laura Fleck Karen Parash

OUR SICK:



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



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, 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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