

December 22nd, 2024 – FOURTH 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

Fourth Sunday of Advent Prayer



DECEMBER 22, 2024

**WISHING YOU A BLESSED
& MERRY CHRISTMAS!**

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 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 23rd – December 29th, 2024

Monday: † Inez Becker (*John Becker*)
Tuesday: **CHRISTMAS EVE** Parishioners’ Intentions
Wednesday: **CHRISTMAS DAY** Parishioners’ Intentions
Thursday: † Bill Saxton (*Loving Wife Lisa*)
Friday: † Paul Burlaga (*Harold Rick*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners’ Intentions
Sunday 8am: † Donald Stahley (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)
Sunday 10:30am: † Ellen & Jack McHugh (*Jim & Cristina McHugh*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Parish Office will close Tuesday, December 24th and will re-open Thursday, January 2nd.

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

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

All Saints’ Day \$1,343 * All Souls’ Day \$642
December 8th - Envelopes \$4,626 - E-Giving \$1,751
The Immaculate Conception of the Blessed Virgin Mary \$596
December 15th - Not Available



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 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.*

FROM YOUR PASTOR

Advent is a time of expectation, anticipation and fulfillment. Today's readings relate to that anticipation. They refer to the way in which the Lord fulfills those expectations not in our own worldly understanding, but through God's will and wonder.

Today's gospel narrates the meeting of two expectant moms and great women in the New Testament, Mary and Elizabeth. The story of the visitation teaches us an important lesson: When Christ is growing inside of us; we will be led to people, places and situations that we never dreamed of. We will bear words of consolation and hope that are not our own. In the very act of consoling others, we will be consoled. They show us that it is possible to move beyond our own little, personal agendas and engage in authentic ministry and service in the Church.

The words of St. Mother Teresa of Calcutta remind us "In the mystery of the Annunciation and the Visitation, Mary is the very model of the life we should lead. First of all, she welcomed Jesus in her existence; then, she shared what she had received". In our lives, too, we can make the impossible things possible, if God is with us. How true it is that St. Ambrose described Mary's haste: The Spirit completely possessed the Virgin Daughter of Nazareth and compelled her to act.

Let us pray for the grace that like Mother Mary we too may be prompt in our actions and bring joy and peace to others through our service.

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 us to 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 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.

This SUNDAY !!

Please help decorate our church for Christmas



We need volunteers to help decorate for Christmas. If you would like to help, please join us after the 10:30 Mass this weekend. Hope to see you there!

Thank you & God Bless, Joan

PREP PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Religion Classes for Children who attend Public School, or non-Catholic Private School, are held on Monday evenings, September to May at St. John the Baptist Parish from 6:15PM-7:30PM. Parents of New Students (1st graders or students who have never attended Religious Education at SJB) should contact the Religious Education Office at prep@stjohnsottsville.org or 610-847-5521 to arrange an appt. to register. To register a New Student, parents need the child's Birth Certificate & Baptism Certificate (unless baptized at SJB), Fee of \$200 for one child for PREP for year.

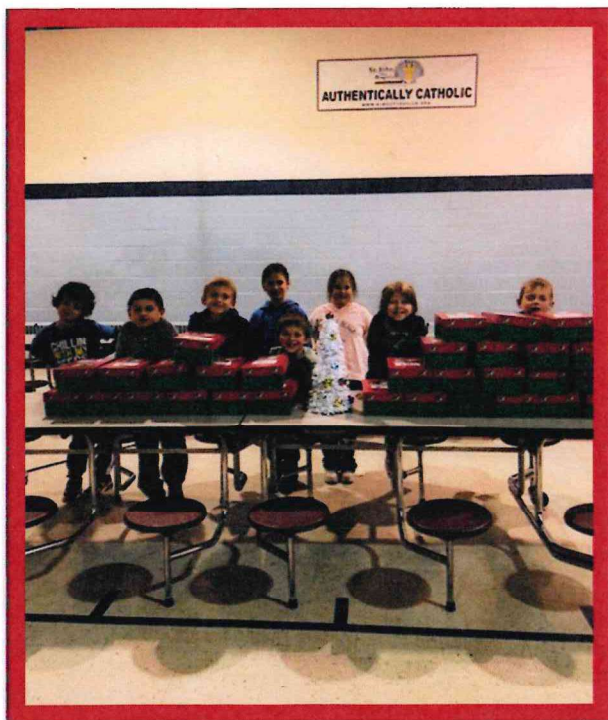


Students of St. John the Baptist Parish Religious Education Program & the Regina Academy participated in **OPERATION CHRISTMAS CHILD,**



a Program of Samaritan's Purse, which shares the Love of Christ as they help persons who need assistance. Our children filled shoeboxes with

personal items, toys, hats, gloves, as well as much love and prayers. Some of our younger children pictured here are excited about the number of boxes that are piling up. These Shoeboxes will be given to children around the world this year, spreading the Gospel Message "to the ends of the earth".



TO ALL OUR PARISHIONERS

Follow the star and go wherever it leads you. The feast of Christmas is a celebration of joy, love and peace. It is a celebration of love where God shows his love to us by sending his own beloved son who will continue to live with us and share his love with us. The birth of Jesus is the greatest moment of God's love. The readings speak about the theme of light (Love) and the baby in the manger is the Light of the World.

Prophet Isaiah calls the people of Israel to respond and sing joyfully because the Lord has come to comfort them and give them consolation. The second reading gives full description of the divinity of Jesus. He is the basis of our hope, of the future, for the Son of God through his humanity and because of his infinite divine love for us has made it possible for us to reach heaven when our earthly days are over.

John says three things about the Word; firstly, Word was there at the very beginning of creation. Secondly the word was with God meaning that there is a close link between Jesus and God. Thirdly, the Word was God, indicating the true divinity in Jesus. On this day Jesus invites us to share this love with all.

**MERRY CHRISTMAS
& HAPPY NEW YEAR**

Yours in the Infant Jesus,

REV. S. LUCAS MSC



**GOD'S
BLESSINGS ON
THE BAPTISM OF
TAIDHGIN ELIAS GIBBLE**



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 22nd
TEAM 5**

This is a once per month commitment.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



During December, would you please consider donating **tea, coffee, pineapple slices, yams, flour and sugar**. These products will not only benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staple products but help them enjoy a Blessed Christmas. 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 generosity!

God bless, The Lord's Pantry Volunteers

DECEMBER MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

The Evangelization Ministry

PASTORAL COUNCIL

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

- Father Lucas - Chairman
- Mike Kirk - President/Moderator
- Mary Kosmin - Secretary
- Chris Hackley, Jim McHugh, Mary Miller, Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
- Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative
- Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER
"A Quiet Country Retreat"

OVERNIGHT RETREATS Individual or Group up to 8
DAY PROGRAMS Groups up to 50 Individuals

EXPOSITION of the **BLESSED SACRAMENT, ROSARY, LITURGY** of the **HOURS** (books provided) and **DIVINE MERCY CHAPLET**:

MONDAY EVENING 7PM-8PM. Our Lady's Chapel
WEDNESDAY MORNING 10AM-11AM. Our Lady's Chapel

THIRD SUNDAY OF EACH MONTH

12PM-1PM. ST. Joseph's Chapel (large chapel, name on front of the building)

FIRST SATURDAY OF EACH MONTH

BEGINS AT 10AM Mass, Rosary, Confession and Luncheon (free).

EVERYONE IS WELCOME! PLEASE JOIN US IN PRAYER.

To schedule your retreat and for additional information please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947

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

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS
TUESDAY 5PM

CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES
WEDNESDAY 8AM & 10:30AM

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS
TUESDAY 5PM

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

~SAVE THE DATE~ "Live the Mass"

ENCORE Women's Retreat at Czestochowa Shrine.
Friday Eve, March 28th to Sunday afternoon, March 30th, 2025

CHRISTMAS - DECEMBER 24TH & 25TH

DECEMBER 28TH & 29TH

**CHRISTMAS EVE & DAY
THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS,
MARY & JOSEPH**

| | Communion Minister | Lector | Altar Server | Music Ministry |
|--|---|---------------|--|-------------------------------|
| Christmas Eve TUESDAY 5PM | Joan Black Claire Froman Nancy Kaczinski | Needed | Martin & Rita Elsner Blake Nowicki | Ordinary Time |
| Christmas Day WEDNESDAY 8AM | Laura Gumprecht Need 2 Volunteers | Needed | Alaina Butler Need 2 Volunteers | Anita Colahan Karen Parash |
| Christmas Day WEDNESDAY 10:30AM | Need 3 Volunteers | Needed | Need 3 Volunteers | Echoes of Christ |
| SATURDAY 5PM | Ted Fahy Laura Gumprecht Lisa Saxton | Patti Keyser | Martin & Rita Elsner Brady Mattle | Katie Minster Karen Parash |
| SUNDAY 8AM | Renee Moyer Bea Romaszewski Dave Slifer | Anne Slifer | Blake & Max Nowicki Need 1 Volunteer | Anita Colahan Sue Rogers |
| SUNDAY 10:30AM | Samantha Campbell Wendy DeGroot Anne Luna | Tony Luna | Melissa & Khloe Demusz Olivia Luna | Sue Rogers SJB Choir |



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



OUR SICK:

Jessie Alfaro, Lou Bucci, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Wanda Bickel, Loretta Bodisch, Lillian Buckley, Eileen Carlineo, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maryanne Comly, Lou Cooper, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin Eichlin, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Pat Kreschollek, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Roseann McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiore, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Nancy Moreno, Helene Nastro, Jimmy O'Hanlon, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, Barbara Sabath, Adriana Salvucci, Thomas Shepherd, Megan Slabicki, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, Bernadette Strzelecki, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer, Judy Woodroffe

**If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone you know,
please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521 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, 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

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