December 24th, 2023 - 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



WISHING YOU A BLESSED & MERRY CHRISTMAS!

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

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.



Mass Intentions Week of December 25 – December 31, 2023

Monday: CHRISTMAS DAY Parishioners' Intentions Tuesday: + Inez Becker (John Becker)

Wednesday: + Raymond Carr (Family Member) Thursday: **+** Joseph & Yolanda (Jerry & Joanne Peters) Friday: Intentions of Helene Bell (Prayer Shawl Ministry)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: + Dorothy Thornton (Mike & Colette Kirk) Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions Sunday 10:30am: + Elizabeth Petritsch (Loving Husband) Sunday 5pm: Solemnity of Mary Vigil (New Year's Eve) **Parishioners' Intentions**

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon-Fri 9am-5pm

The Parish Office will close Monday, December 25th and will re-open Tuesday, January 2nd. To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas through the Parish Office.

CHRISTMAS EVE MASS SUNDAY 5PM JOIN US AT 4:30PM TO ENJOY CHRISTMAS CAROLS CHRISTMAS DAY MASSES **MONDAY 9AM & 10:30AM NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS** SUNDAY 5PM THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS (NEW YEAR'S DAY) **MONDAY 9AM**

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 17th Not Available

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tue. Dec 26: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm Wed. Dec 27: Intercessory Praver – Zoom - 6:30pm Sat. Dec 30: 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! 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!



FROM YOUR PASTOR

The birth of Jesus, who is the Word, is inviting us to be present to the realities of the world today. There was hardly anyone present at the birth of Jesus who was laid in the manger. In that birth we were given God's very self. God's love is lavish, overflowing but we failed to show our love in the form of our presence in return for His gift. Now is the perfect time to rediscover what it would be like to be present at the presence of baby Christ. It could be in form prayer, of special meditation or contemplation.

The act of contemplation on the nativity invites us to make our presence available with others. What kind of presence am I to those I love and care for? How can I be more present to the people who are in need of my help? For instance, it could be our children who feel neglected or our neighbors who need our guidance. It is a time for us to celebrate the presence of others in our life as well as to be present and to be available to the people in need. This Christmas invites us to spend more time in meditating in the presence of Jesus and more time exploring the power and wonder of our own presence with others.

Lord Jesus, help us to feel your presence in our life and in the world. Shower the grace to find your presence within us and with others.

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.



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.



"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.



Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist The only Catholic, Classical School in Bucks County!

Authentic Catholic education that develops strong morals and character

Small class sizes without screens

· Tight knit, like minded community

Montessori Pre-K, Classical K-Bth Grade



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

The only Catholic classical school in Bucks County is seekina 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, <u>tkoerber@rasjb.org</u> - 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!

New Music Ministry Members



Welcome!

Do you find yourself singing along with the songs at Mass?

Thinking about how to be more involved in the Mass?

Why not join the Music Ministry?

The Choir, Ordinary Time, Echoes of Christ, and Cantors are always looking for new members.

No special training needed, just a willingness to join in and contribute.

We are also in great need of Musicians: Organists, Pianists as well as other Instrumentalists. New Groups are also welcome.

Contacts:

Choir, Cantor, Musician, Group: Patty: pl_1967@hotmail.com | phone: (908) 500-3398 Ordinary Time: Liz: foxtail@epix.net | phone: (610)-608-6365 Echoes of Christ: Rob: robgaldo@aol.com | phone: (215-435-5427)

QUESTIONS: CONQUESTFORCHRIST@GMAIL.COM

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for children who attend public school, private non-Catholic school, or athome secular learning experiences, is provided at St. John the Baptist

Any family not yet registered should contact the Director of Religious

Education at prep@stjohnsottsville.org or call 610-847-5521.



FATIMA RETREAT HOUSE "A Quiet Country Retreat"

601 Rolling Hills Rd, Bedminster, PA

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

OVERNIGHT RETREATS FOR AN INDIVIDUAL OR A GROUP UP TO 8 DAY PROGRAMS AVAILABLE FOR GROUPS UP TO 50 INDIVIDUALS

> WEEKLY PRAYER SCHEDULE 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 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

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 Massi Hosted by the Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition.

on Monday evenings from September through May.

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

- 1. Lenten Bible Study: "Jesus and the Jewish Roots" by Brant Pitre
- Apr 13th Apr 14th, 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

DECEMBER 24TH, 2023 – 4TH SUNDAY OF ADVENT

December 30th & 31st, 2023 & January 1st, 2024

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph/Solemnity of Mary

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Weez Roney Marion Wolf	Patti Keyser	Rita Elsner Martin Elsner Brady Mattle	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 8AM	Tom Keller Bea Romaszewski	Jeanne Keller	Need 3 Volunteers	Karen Parash Liz Torgerson
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Frank Balbirer Joan Beebe	Ward Van Haute	Max Van Haute Audrey Van Haute Hezekiah Van Haute	Kate Irvine Karen Parash
SUNDAY 5PM Solemnity of Mary Vigil (New Year's Eve)	Christina Crews Adam Crews	Marie Burke	Amalia Crews Siobhan Crews	Cantor Needed Karen Parash
MONDAY 9AM Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day)	Laura Gumprecht Marion Wolf	Kim Zampirri	Joshua Roney Jacob Roney Need 1 Volunteer	Denny Litzenberger Sue Rogers

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, 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



232 St. John the Baptist • Ottsville, PA (INSIDE)

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