

December 29th, 2024 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY AND JOSEPH

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 & HAPPY NEW YEAR!

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 30th – January 5th, 2025

Monday: † Souls of Purgatory (*Maxine Vogan*)
Tuesday: **NEW YEAR'S EVE** Parishioners' Intentions
Wednesday: **SOLEMNITY OF MARY (NEW YEAR'S DAY)** Parishioners' Intentions
Thursday: † Aurelia & Paul Dayawon
(Jim & Cristina McHugh)
Friday: † Marie Louzon (*Gina Puente*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: † Kyle Dougherty (*Mizdail Family*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: Intentions of Ligaya Dayawon
(Jim & Cristina McHugh)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Parish Office 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.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS - TUESDAY 5PM
THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS
(NEW YEAR'S DAY) - WEDNESDAY 9AM

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 15th - Envelopes \$4,038 - E-Giving \$1,569
December 22nd - 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

God is the one who fulfills our needs. He hears our sorrows and pain and saves us from our enemies. When the Israelites were in slavery and cried for help, He set them free. So, Hannah believed that the Lord who fought for Israelites would also fight for the despised and lowly. Thus, she wisely turned to the Lord and made a request: “to give your servant a male child.” Hannah bound herself with the vow that she would give this son back to God and that his hair will never be cut. In due time, she conceived and bore a son named Samuel and offered him to the Lord for his whole life.

The greatest love of the Almighty God is that he gave his only Son to us. Through his death and resurrection, we have become the children of God. In the Gospel we come to know that Jesus was ‘filled with wisdom’. His knowledge and wisdom astounded the teachers of Israel. This was possible for Him because He always united himself with God the Father.

Heavenly Father help us to live according to the commandments of your Son that we may always be united in Triune God.

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.

ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST PARISH

NEW YEAR'S MASS SCHEDULE

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS

TUESDAY 5PM

THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS

(NEW YEAR'S DAY)

WEDNESDAY 9AM



1st Friday Adoration begins January 3rd after the 9am Mass and concludes Saturday morning at 9am Benediction & Mass.

PLEASE WELCOME **JESSIE ALFARO** WITH CONGRATULATIONS ON HER RECEPTION INTO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH. SHE RECEIVED THE SACRAMENTS OF INITIATION AT THE 10:30AM MASS ON SUNDAY DECEMBER 15, 2024. GOD'S BLESSINGS UPON JESSIE!

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 **610-847-5521** or prep@stjohnsottsville.org 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.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



During January, would you please consider donating **Chunky soups, canned tuna, canned chicken and corn beef hash** to benefit our struggling

families affected by the increased prices of staple. 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



FEAST OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

Since we celebrate the *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God*, on New Year's Day, may I take this opportunity to wish you all a Happy and Peaceful New Year? I pray that the Lord Jesus and His Mother Mary may enrich your lives during the New Year with an abundance of God's blessings. It is the oldest of all Marian feasts in our liturgy, most appropriate to those of us concerned with new beginnings, with new resolutions, and renewed hopes. Today's *Feast of Mary, the Mother of God* is a very appropriate way to begin a new year. This celebration reminds us that the Blessed Virgin Mary, the Mother of God, is also our Heavenly Mother. So, our ideal motto for the New Year 2025 should be "Through Mary to Jesus!" This is an occasion to renew our devotion to Mary, who is also Mother of the Church because she is our spiritual mother.

The Church puts the feast of this solemnity on the first day of the New Year to emphasize the importance of Mary's role in the life of Christ and of the Church. We commemorate the various saints on the different days of the year, but Mary is the most prominent of them all. She has a special role and mission given to her by God. As Mother of our Redeemer and of the redeemed, she reigns as the Queen at the side of Christ the King. She is a powerful intercessor for all of our needs here on earth.

In celebrating her special feast day, we acknowledge this great gift for the Church and world; we call on her to be actively involved in our daily life; we imitate her virtuous life as a great inspiration; and we cooperate with all the graces we get through her. The Church observes this day also as the *World Day of Peace* and invites us to pray specially for peace in the world.

All mothers want their children to inherit or acquire their good qualities. Our Heavenly Mother is no exception. With Joseph, she succeeded in training the Child Jesus, so that He grew in holiness and in "*favor before God and man.*" So, our best way of celebrating this feast and honoring our Heavenly Mother would be to promise her that we will practice her virtues of Faith, obedience, purity and humble service. In this way, we will be trying to become the saintly sons and daughters of our heavenly Mother, the holy Mother of God.

GOD'S
BLESSINGS
ON THE
BAPTISM OF



BILLIE ROSE VANDERLELY

Breathing in the Breath of God

Christmas is a beautiful season, but it can often be a time of stress. Take a moment for yourself to appreciate the deep meaning of this holy time, when the Word became flesh.

Sit comfortably with your feet firmly on the ground. Close your eyes. Take a few deep breaths slowly in and out. As you breathe in, be conscious of your breath passing in through your mouth or nose, filling your lungs with life-giving oxygen.

Hold your breath for ten seconds, then slowly breathe out, allowing the toxins in your body to be expelled. Imagine the tension, anxieties, and pressure in your body flowing out as you do so.

Come to rest, calm your mind, relax your body. Recite a breathing prayer and sit or stand quietly for a minute in the presence of God.

A BREATHING PRAYER:

- ✚ Breathe in the breath of God
- ✚ Breathe out your cares and concerns
- ✚ Breathe in the love of God
- ✚ Breathe out your doubts and despairs
- ✚ Breathe in the life of God
- ✚ Breathe out your fears and frustrations
- ✚ We sit quietly before the One who gives life and love to all creation
- ✚ We sit in awe of the One who formed us in our mother's womb
- ✚ We sit at peace surrounded by the One who fills every fibre of our being
- ✚ Breathe in the breath of God
- ✚ Breathe out your tensions and turmoil
- ✚ Breathe in the love of God
- ✚ Breathe out your haste and hurry
- ✚ Breathe in the life of God
- ✚ Breathe out your work and worry
- ✚ We sit quietly before the One who gives life and love to all creation
- ✚ We sit in awe of the One who formed us in our mothers' wombs
- ✚ We sit at peace surrounded by the One who fills every fiber of our being. - *Christine Aroney-Sine*



Join the
Cleaning Team!

Wk. of December 29th
TEAM 1

This is a once per month commitment.

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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

~SAVE THE DATE~ "Live the Mass"

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

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
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Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

DECEMBER 31ST & JANUARY 1ST, 2025

JANUARY 4TH & 5TH, 2025

NEW YEAR'S EVE & DAY

EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
New Year's Eve TUESDAY 5PM	Joan Black Tom Keller Need 1 Volunteer	Jeanne Keller	Need 3 Volunteers	Amleto Pucci Susan Rogers
Solemnity of Mary (New Year's Day) WEDNESDAY 9AM	TBD – Joan Black	TBD – Joan Black	TBD – Joan Black	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SATURDAY 5PM	Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey Lisa Saxton	Kim Zampirri	Blake & Max Nowicki Need 1 Volunteer	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 8AM	Nancy Kaczinski Donna & Natalie Nice	Marie Burke	Alexander & Justin Nice Need 1 Volunteer	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Black Laura Gumprecht Patty Salva	Needed	Melissa & Khloe Demusz Need 1 Volunteer	Echoes of Christ



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 Holzmagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Pat Kreschollek, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Roseann McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, 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



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