

December 31st, 2023 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & 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!

DECEMBER 31ST, 2023 – THE HOLY FAMILY OF JESUS, MARY & JOSEPH

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.



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 January 01 – January 07, 2024

Monday: **SOLEMNITY OF MARY** Parishioners' Intentions
Tuesday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: Intentions of Marlene McKenna (*Jim & Joan Black*)
Thursday: + Ethel Fchet (*Tom & Sue Rogers*)
Friday: + Bill Saxton (*A Friend*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: + Hank Tancredi (*Mike & Colette Kirk*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: Intentions of John DeChiaro (*Antonelli Family*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

The Parish Office will be closed Monday, January 1st
To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas through the Parish Office.

NEW YEAR'S EVE MASS - SUNDAY 5PM **THE SOLEMNITY OF MARY MASS** **(NEW YEAR'S DAY) - MONDAY 9AM**

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 17th Envelopes \$6,632 * E-Giving \$2,282

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Tue. Jan 02: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm
Tue. Jan 02: K of C Council Meeting – Marian Room – 7:30pm
Wed. Jan 03: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm
Thu. Jan 04: Regina Academy Christmas Tableau - 7:00-8:30pm
Sat. Jan 06: 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!

1st Friday Adoration begins
January 5th after the 9am Mass and
concludes Saturday morning
at 9am Benediction & Mass



Please pray for the repose of the soul of
ELAINE JOCELYN

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



FROM YOUR PASTOR

Every Christian family is a Church in itself; for, it is in and through a family one gets to live out his/ her Christian values and ideals. This way, one invites the other members of the family to partake in the relationship with God and with one another and thereby, as a family, become the children of God.

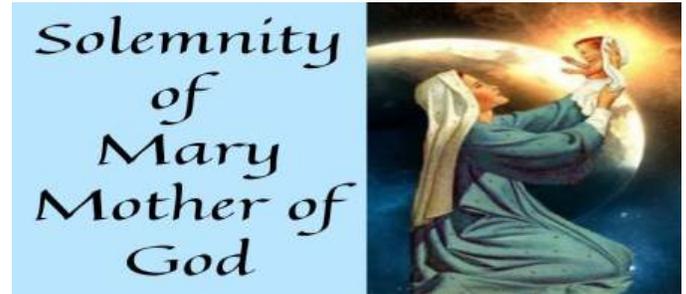
In today's Gospel, we are told how the members of the Holy Family were faithful in their tradition, showed real concern when Jesus went missing and understood their roles in the plan of God. Thus, the Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph brings before us an ideal God-loving family.

However, as we know, the advancements in the world of technology have now changed the way we live our family lives. Many are being lost in the world of technology; the feeling of oneness and belongingness to one's family is continually on the decline. Nevertheless, it is not too late if we try to mend our relationships with one another in the family even today. After all, this is what the feast of the Holy Family expects us to do. If we could do that, just as Jesus was found in the temple, so also could we be found in the hearts of our family members and thereby bring joy to one another.

Sincerely in Our Lord

REV. S. LUCAS MSC

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish



From your Pastor

January 1, the Mother Church celebrates the feast of Mary, Mother of God. Mother Mary said 'yes' to the Call of God and accepted the great responsibility of giving birth to Jesus, the Son of God. Her 'yes' to God marked a new beginning of the human relationship with God. Through her response, God has transformed the entire creation. In the Gospel, we see Mary deeply reflecting on the miracles that unfolded before her. It was her contemplation and reflection that helped her to live the call of being the Mother of God by means of accompanying Jesus in His redeeming work. Thus, we are called to become a sharer of God's mission just like our Blessed Mother.

Today, we also celebrate the New Year of 2024. The celebration of the New Year invites us to look back on our past with gratitude and look forward to the future with renewed hope and faith. As the annunciation changed everything in the life of Mother Mary, so also our celebration of the New Year is likely to change us all for good. Let the New Year make us new in all aspects of life and this newness will come only through our contemplation and reflection of God's blessings. After all, this is the time for renewing our commitments and taking up our responsibilities with more vigor and greater faith.

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. 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.



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of December 31st
TEAM 4**

This is a once per month commitment.

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

The only Catholic classical school in Bucks County is seeking 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, tkoerber@rasjb.org - 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

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)



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

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
2. Apr 13th - Apr 14th, 2024: an overnight retreat at the Czestochowa Shrine **“Live the Mass”**

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

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE CLOTHING DRIVE



January cold means a tough time for the homeless. The SJB Outreach Team will once again collect clothing for St. John's Hospice, a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City, Philadelphia. Please make a note of the **Wish List** now, to prepare for our clothing drive later in January. More details to come!

WISH LIST

Thermal Underwear & Socks, Coats, Gloves, Scarves, Hats, Sweat Suits, Sweaters, Blankets, Towels, Men's Backpacks, New or Gently Used Winter Boots, New T-Shirts & Underwear (Size Large and Up), New Twin Size White Fitted & Flat Sheets, White Pillow Cases

Toiletries including Soap, Disposable Razors, Shaving Cream, Deodorant, Shampoo, Toothbrushes, Toothpaste, Floss, Hand Lotion, Combs

Also checks, cash and money orders are accepted! Make all donations out to St. John's Hospice. Please bring to church at the time of the clothing drive **OR** send to: St. John's Hospice, 221 Race Street, Philadelphia, PA. 19107-1694. Be sure to identify yourself as a St. John the Baptist Ottsville parishioner!

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



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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 1ST 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

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Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative

January 6th & 7th, 2024

The Epiphany of the Lord

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Adam Crews Lynn Gammello	Christina Crews	Siobhan Crews Amalia Crews Need 1 Volunteer	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Need 1 Volunteer	Megan Gilbert	Alaina Butler Gretchen Meyers Need 1 Volunteer	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Claire Froman Anne Luna	Tony Luna	Melissa Demusz Khloe Demusz Olivia Luna	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, 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



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