

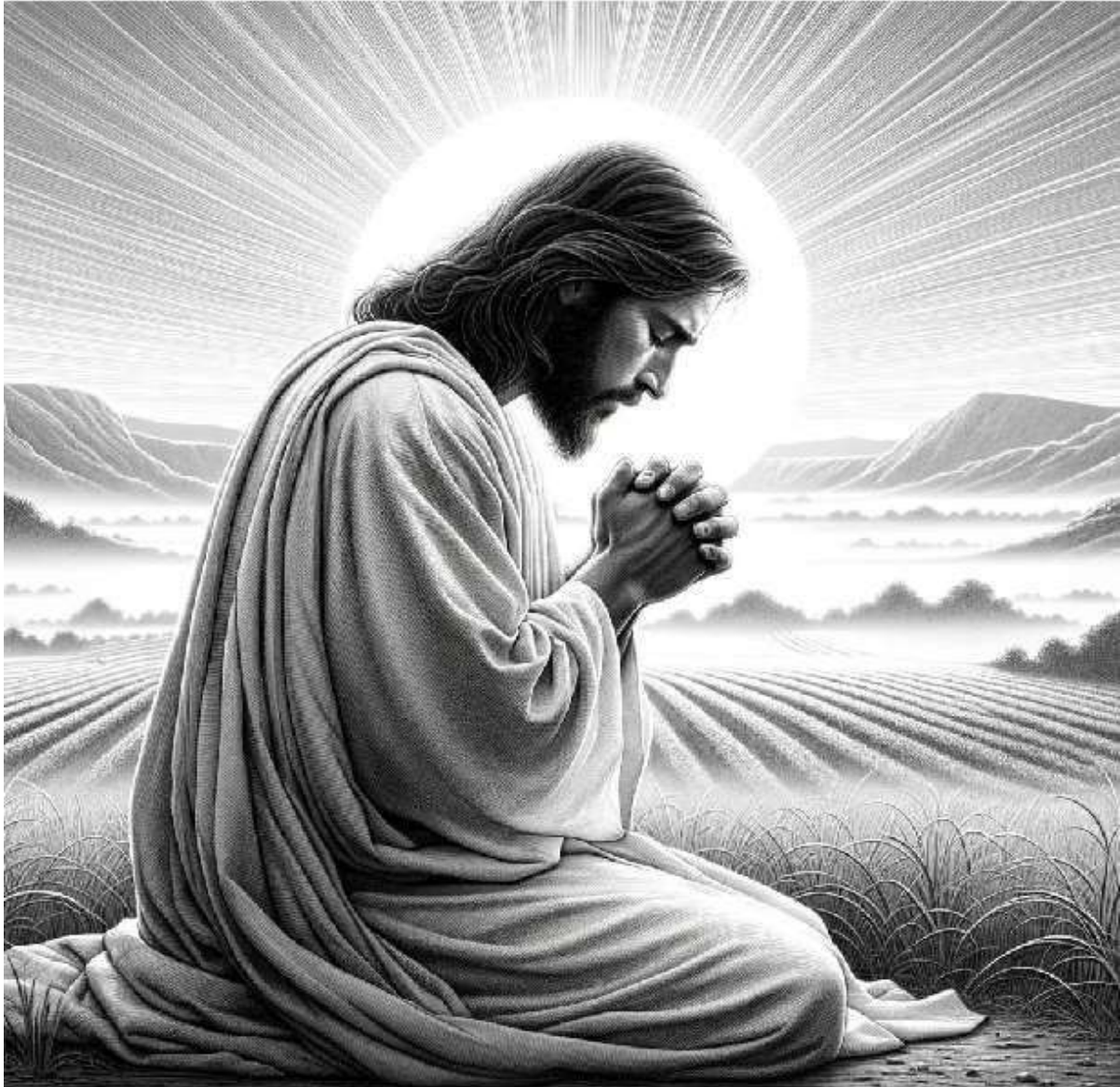
February 4th, 2024 – **The 5th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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!

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 February 05 – February 11, 2024

Monday: † Bill Saxton (*A Friend*)
Tuesday: † Jerry Petritsch (*Patti & Bruce Keyser*)
Wednesday: † Ralph Rick (*Mike & Cathy Moreni*)
Thursday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Friday: † Linda Hayes (*Joseph & Irene Simkanin*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: † Ralph Rick (*Harold Rick*)
Sunday 10:30am: † Susan Leidner (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

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

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

January 28th Envelopes \$7,172 * E-Giving \$1,699
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Mon. Feb 05: Knights of Columbus – Marian Rm - 7:30pm
Tue. Feb 06: SJB Choir Practice - 7:00pm
Wed. Jan 07: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm
Sat. Feb 10: Men of Faith – Marian Room – 9:00am
Sun. Feb 11: Conquest/Challenge – School – 11:30am-2pm

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!

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

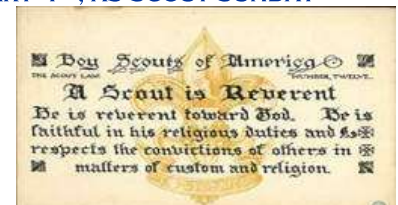
Holy Communion for the Sick & Homebound



Are you or your family member unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion? If you would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521.

We will make arrangements to bring the Lord to you.

THE BOY SCOUTS OF AMERICA DESIGNATES THIS SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 4TH, AS SCOUT SUNDAY



FROM YOUR PASTOR

Peter's mother-in-law is sick and as soon as she was made well again, what did she do? She started serving other people. She recognizes that if she has a life and if she has been helped then she is going to venture out, serving other people. And this is what all about Jesus in today's Gospel. Jesus gets out serving, healing and expelling the demons. He serves other people like Simon's mother-in-law.

In today's second reading, we have the story of St. Paul. He said that he just had to preach the Gospel. It is like a fire in his heart. It is burning in his bones. In the first reading, Job communicated both the struggle of life and the service for people. It seems so hard to work. In addition, today's Gospel has the answer about how we can serve others. One word that can aptly describe today's first reading is "stressed".

Based on our experience and standards, Jesus must be stressed out too. But he was not. He was always at peace. How come? The secret of Jesus is revealed in the Gospel today. No matter how busy and exhausted he was, **he would always find time to pray** and to be with His Father. His communion with the Father gave him strength, inspiration and peace. Today's readings are about sharing with others and serving others. But then it is also about finding time to recharge (pray) ourselves so that we serve others better.

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.

ASH WEDNESDAY

February 14th

Masses at 9AM and 6PM

PARISH SURVEY



THE PASTORAL COUNCIL IS READY TO LAUNCH **PHASE 2** OF THE PARISH SURVEY RESPONSE. IN DECEMBER WE HANDED OUT THE SUMMARY OF RESULTS TO PARISHIONERS. NOW WE ARE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO SIGN UP FOR FOCUS GROUPS TO ADDRESS THE OUTSTANDING ITEMS FROM THE SURVEY. WE ARE ASKING ALL THOSE WHO SIGNED UP TO PARTICIPATE IN THE FOCUS GROUPS TO SIGN UP FOR ONE GROUP. IF YOU DID NOT SIGN UP PREVIOUSLY, BUT ARE INTERESTED, YOU ARE WELCOME TO SIGN UP. ALSO, YOU ARE WELCOME TO SIGN UP EVEN IF YOU DID NOT COMPLETE THE SURVEY.

SIGN-UP SHEETS ARE IN THE NARTHEX.



FEBRUARY MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT

The SJB Cleaning Ministry currently has 23 volunteers who give an hour or two of their time once a month to keep our Parish church clean and inviting for all who come to the daily and Sunday Masses.

We currently have 5 cleaning teams. Working together as a team makes the job go faster and there is a sense of camaraderie that accompanies each team in the work of keeping our Parish polished and clean. It is truly an honor to do this task for Our Lord! Lifelong friendships develop from cheerfully working alongside one another each month. Thank you to all our wonderful volunteers. If interested in joining a team please contact: Anita Colahan amcolahan@epix.net



As you prepare to file your taxes, you have a huge opportunity to receive an up to 90% tax credit while supporting Catholic education at Regina Academy, at little or no cost to you!

Why pay for a wasteful government program or a legislator's lunch? Please consider enrolling in the Pennsylvania Educational Tax Credit program, better-known as EITC. The Academy will receive 100% of your pledge and you will receive a 90% tax credit for a 2-year commitment and 75% for a 1-year commitment. Individuals and businesses are eligible.

Check-out line 12 of your 2022 PA State return to get an indication of the amount you can pledge. The minimum contribution is \$1,000.

Please scan the QR code below or contact office@rasjb.org for more information. If you enroll by July 1, you can get your tax credit for your 2024 tax return filing.

There is no better investment than in our children! Thank you for your commitment to this worthy cause and making a difference in the lives of the children.



CATHOLIC CHARITIES APPEAL

This weekend marks the kick-off of the 2024 Catholic Charities Appeal. Please join us in supporting the Appeal as it continues to impact those in need all over the Greater Philadelphia Area.

Visit www.catholiccharitiesappeal.org to make your donation today.

NEXT WEEKEND! PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS PLEASE STOP BY!



Next weekend we'll have a Parish Social after each Mass. All are welcome to stay, enjoy hospitality & get to know your church family. Hope to see you!



Starting on February 13th, we will be viewing **"THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3"** on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Marian Room. We are blessed that Fr. Jomar will be joining us once again to answer questions and provide his excellent insights!

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.

WE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HAVE PLANNED THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

1. **Bible / Faith Study for Lent** - This Lent we will be reading **"Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist"** by Brant Pitre. Please join Maxine Vogan as she leads us through discussions on one of the greatest mysteries of the Catholic faith: Jesus present in the Eucharist! We will meet Sundays starting Feb 18th at 9:15am. Sign up in the Narthex.
2. Apr 13th - Apr 14th, 2024: an overnight retreat at the Czestochowa Shrine **"Live the Mass"**



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.



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

ST. JOHN'S HOSPICE CLOTHING DRIVE



LAST CHANCE!

Please drop off your donations THIS WEEKEND after all Masses. Bins and plastic bags will be available

in the narthex to collect donated items for our annual clothing drive to benefit St. John's Hospice, a Catholic Social Services shelter for men located in Center City, Philadelphia. .

Jesus says, "Whatever you do to the least of my brothers and sisters, you do to me."

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!

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: robgaldos@aol.com | phone: (215)-435-5427



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MONDAY EVENING AT 7 PM – 8 PM

WEDNESDAY MORNING AT 10 AM -11AM

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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

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



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.

February 10th & 11th, 2024

6th Sunday in Ordinary Time

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Joel Roney Weez Roney	Kim Zampirri	Rita Elsner Martin Elsner Jacob Roney	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci
SUNDAY 8AM	Donna Nice Bea Romaszewski	Marie Burke	Alaina Butler Need 2 Volunteers	Patty Leidner Sue Rogers
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Claire Froman Anne Luna	Tony Luna	Fatu Logaivau Elia Logaivau Olivia Luna	Sue Rogers SJB Choir



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, Joe Fekete, 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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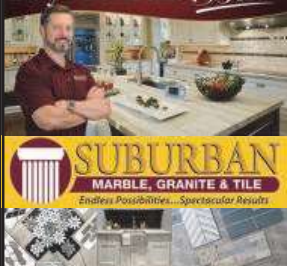

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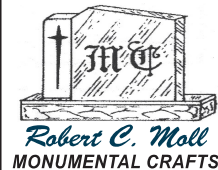
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