

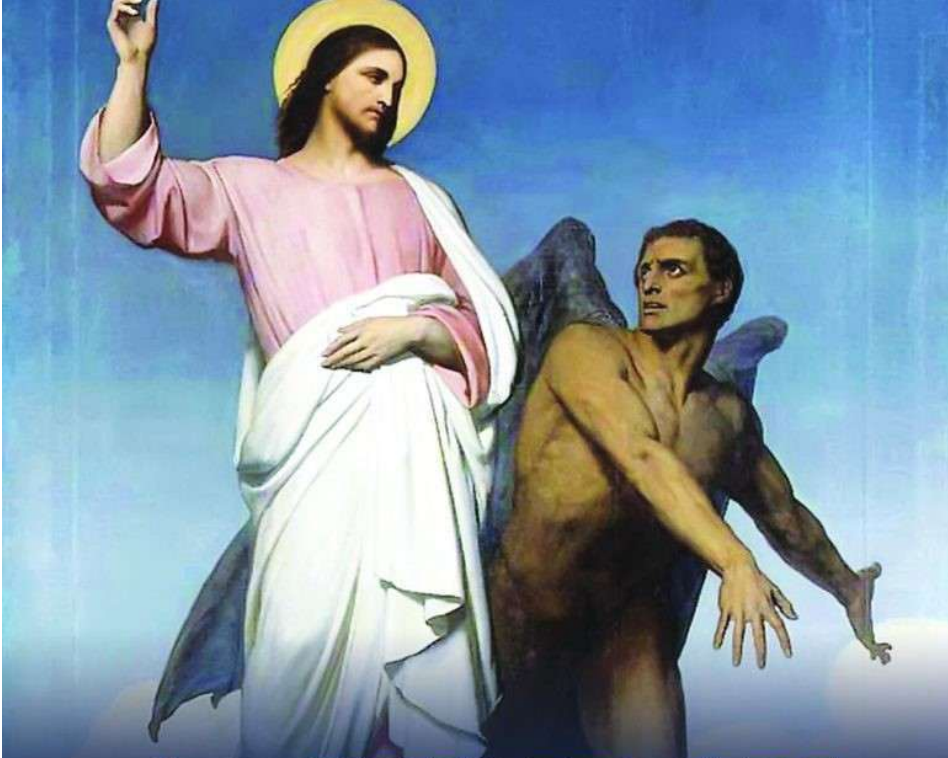
FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026 – THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

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



**1st SUNDAY
OF LENT**

Then the devil took him up to a very high mountain, and showed him all the kingdoms of the world in their magnificence, and he said to him, “All these I shall give to you, if you will prostrate yourself and worship me.” —Mt 4:8-9

Thank you for attending Mass with us today, we are glad you came!

**Fr. Lucas and the parish family of St. John the Baptist
would like to welcome all our visitors and new members.**

FEBRUARY 22ND, 2026 – THE 1ST SUNDAY OF LENT

PARISH STAFF

Pastor: Rev. Selvaraj Lucas, M.S.C.
Director of Religious Education: Mary Ann Corcoran
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok
Facilities Manager: Thomas Rimmer
Finance Manager/Bulletin/Website: Carolyn Marchese

MASS TIMES

Saturday Vigil Mass: 4:30pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Mon- Fri: 9:00am (Thursday at old St. John's Church)
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:00pm
CONFESSION: Saturdays 4:00pm - 4:20pm or by appt.

Register in the Parish Please contact the Parish Office to register when you move into our parish.

Certificates of Eligibility to act as Godparent or Sponsor may be issued only to registered parishioners who have been registered here at St. John the Baptist Parish at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, have received all their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their faith in our parish. If married, your marriage must have been witnessed and blessed by a Catholic Priest or have special permission approved by the Archbishop. A person who has left the Catholic Faith for any reason is not eligible to be a sponsor and, therefore, we cannot issue a Certificate of Eligibility.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism may be scheduled



to take place on a Saturday at 10am or 11am; or on a Sunday at 11:45am (immediately following the 10:30am Mass). 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 23rd – March 1st, 2026

Monday: † Ralph DeMaio (Bernadette Strzelecki)

Tuesday: † Bernice Fees (Her Children)

**Wednesday: Intentions of Marlene McKenna
(Jim & Joan Black)**

Thursday: † Chris Leahy (Family)

Friday: † Bill Saxton (McHugh Family)

Weekend Masses

**Saturday 4:30pm: Intentions of Laura Gumprecht
(Jim & Joan Black)**

Sunday 8am: † James Schramek (Bernadette Strzelecki)

Sunday 10:30am Parishioners' Intentions

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

February 15th - Envelopes \$4,491 - E-Giving \$1,536

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Feb 22: Lenten Bible Study – Marian Rm - 9:15pm

Tue. Feb 24: Viewing of "The Chosen" – Marian Rm - 6pm

Tue. Feb 24: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm

Wed. Feb 25: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am

Thu. Feb 26: NGGC Meeting- St. John Neumann Rm- 6:00pm

Thu. Feb 26: Retreat Committee Mtg.- Marian Rm - 6:00pm



**CONFESSIONS
AT 6:30PM &
MASS AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CHAPEL
ON WEDNESDAYS
DURING LENT.**



All are Welcome to our Parish Lenten Soup Suppers on Fridays at 6pm during Lent through March 27th. Stations of the Cross follows at 7pm in the Narthex. We will serve soup, crackers, bread and desserts.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for those who can help set up at 5:30 and for anyone who can bring soup & desserts for dinner. **Thank you & God bless!**

For information, please call Mary at 215-896-4034.

From Your Pastor-



Life is a constant struggle between the good and the better. It often appears interesting and pleasing to the eye to choose what satisfies worldly and sensual desires. It is rather easy for us to choose pride and selfishness in the name of self-love, self-glory and self-righteousness.

These worldly desires blind us from the needs of others and lead us into sins of commission and omission. To sin is the normal human tendency. It is human ignorance that leads one to sin against the very Creator, nevertheless the divine presence within us leads us back to God through love and reconciliation.

Today's readings invite us to recall the fall of our first parents, who through their selfish motive equated themselves with God. They failed to understand the fullness of grace which an absolute necessity is to overcome every form of evil.

The Gospel presents the exemplary life of Jesus, who was tempted like any one of us, yet resisted evil through the Word of God that promises grace. We are invited to rediscover our identity of being created in the image and likeness of God and resist evil with the help of his Word.

Lord, help us to accept the presence of sinful desires in our lives and give us the grace to overcome the temptations of today.

**Yours in Jesus Christ,
Rev. S. Lucas, MSC
Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish**



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.



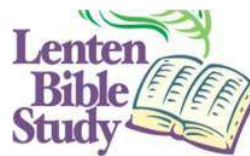
Please consider a leaving a legacy to St. John the Baptist Parish. A gift to SJB in your will enables you to support the Church and makes a difference in the lives of future generations. Thank you. God bless.

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 join us for our Lenten Bible Study on Sundays at 9:15am in the Marian Room. This year we will view videos explaining the gospels and other relevant topics. Presenters include Scott Hahn, Brandt Pitre, Edward Sri, and Fr. Chris Alar. You won't want to miss the insights offered by these popular Catholic leaders! [Sign up in the Narthex](#)

SJB Nitty Gritty Garden Club

YOU ARE INVITED

to the next Garden Club meeting on Thursday 2/26 at 6:00pm in the St. Augustine room.

Thanks to all who attended the Ministry Fair and stopped by our table. We appreciate you. The winner of the basket is

Mary Miller 😊 Congratulations!

Hope to see all members and those who signed up at the fair there.

COME GROW WITH US 🌻 🌸 🌺 🌿

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-

Would you please consider donating these items:



- Chunky soups * condiments ***
- coffee * tea * juice * snacks**
- cream of mushroom soup**
- canned chicken/ham * shampoo**

Giant or dollar store gift cards are also appreciated!


You will benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staples. 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 loving generosity! **God bless, The Lord's Pantry Volunteers**



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of February 22nd
TEAM 1**

This is a once per month commitment.

**Red Rosary of Hope
Pilgrimage to France**

including Paris, Lisieux, Normandy Beaches,
Mont Saint-Michel, and Lourdes

with Fr. Selva Lucas MSC

12 Days October 2-13, 2026

26RS10FRMS



**Cemetery Spring
Clean-up**

Saturday March 7th, 9:30 AM

All are welcome to help!



50th Year Reunion - 1976

Friday, May 29, 2026 (6 PM to 10 PM)

The Southampton Room 2980 Southampton Road
Philadelphia, PA 19154 Tickets on Sale
www.arhs.me/class76reunion

Email caitlin.casey@arhs.org for questions



**A Message from
The Regina Academy
at St. John the Baptist**

Warm wishes from across campus!

This week at the Academy has been filled with energy, joy, and the kind of moments that remind us what a blessing our school community truly is. We began the week gathered before the altar for our school Mass, a cherished tradition that centers us in prayer and draws our students closer to Christ and to one another.

Thursday brought a special highlight with our 10th Annual Declamation Contest. Our students look forward to this event each year, and it is inspiring to see how confidently they recite poetry, prose, and speeches after months of thoughtful preparation. Their hard work and courage shine brightly.

We also enjoyed plenty of laughter and excitement during the Knights of Columbus Free Throw Contest. Basketballs were flying in every direction, sometimes even toward the net, and the joyful chaos created wonderful memories for students and teachers alike.

Looking ahead, we are excited for next week's Winter Concert, where our students will sing, play instruments, and ring bells under the talented direction of Mrs. Patricia Murphy, who fills our halls with the beauty of music. We warmly invite you to join us on Thursday at 6:30 PM in the school gym for a delightful evening that showcases the spirit and gifts of our Academy family.

God bless. **Brian Dulin**, President
Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist



**PARISH RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

Attention: Parents of **New Students** of any grade level should contact the Parish Office at:
610-847-5521 or prep@stjohnsottsville.org.

Attention: Parents/Guardians of **7th grade students** who are parishioners of St. John the Baptist Church, who are attending Catholic School and who desire to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation at St. John the Baptist Church in 2026, should contact the Director of Religious Education.

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

“A Quiet Country Retreat”

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On Mondays at 7 PM and Wednesdays at 10 AM we have an Hour of Adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. We pray the “Liturgy of the Hours”, the Rosary and the Chaplet of Divine Mercy. No experience necessary!

DAILY AND OVERNIGHT RETREATS

FOR PRAYER REQUESTS & INFORMATION,
PLEASE CALL JOAN BLACK AT 215-795-2947

RACHEL'S VINEYARD
A PLACE TO HEAL FROM ABORTION

DATES: MARCH 6-8, 2026
LOCATION: IHM SPIRITUALITY CENTER
210 IHM DRIVE MALVERN, PA 19355

If you or someone you love has been suffering from the emotional and spiritual pains of an abortion – no matter how much time has passed – please know that a Rachel's Vineyard retreat weekend will help your soul transform that pain into a hope for the future. Rachel's Vineyard retreats bring healing and God's forgiveness to the trauma and darkness of abortion for those who think they have committed the unforgivable sin. God's mercy is greater than sin and is waiting for us to reach out for it. Join us for a safe, loving and confidential weekend to experience the healing power of God's infinite mercy.

Contact our team to register or for questions:
Susan – 610-716-4795, susafnsch@comcast.net
Georgann – 484-955-4278, georgannr@gmail.com

SJB Nitty Gritty Garden Club

Let's think Spring!

Thursday, March 26th at 6:00 pm

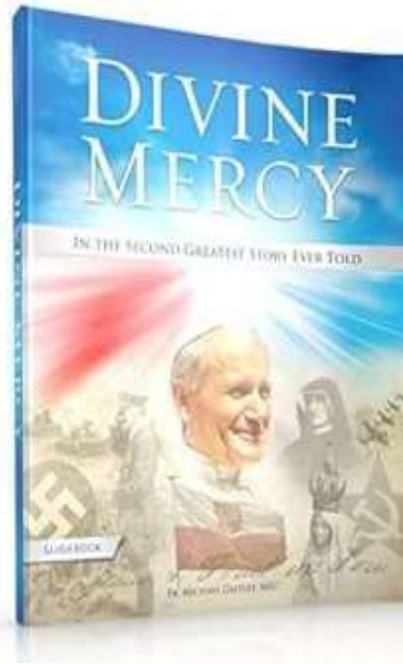


We will be hosting a talk from the Garden Girl Company based in Ottsville and owned by Jackie and Daniel Chapman. Jackie will be speaking about pruning invasive plants of Bucks County and wildflowers - hope you can be there!

More details in our newsletter in March



SJB EVANGELIZATION TEAM



“Divine Mercy in the Second Greatest Story Ever Told”

retreat for adults 18 and older.
Friday, March 20th 6:30pm to
Sunday, March 22nd 4pm
at Our Lady of Czestochowa

Retreat House in Doylestown.

Cost is determined by room choice and includes 3 meals on Saturday and 2 meals on Sunday. Single room \$220, double room \$160, triple room \$125 each.

Registration ends February 22nd

Can't attend? Please be a prayer warrior and pray for the retreat team members and participants.

Questions? sjbevangal@stjohnsottsville.org

Registration Form available on SJB website

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman

Ted Fahy – President

Peg Glancey - Moderator / Marie Burke - Secretary

Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht, Nancy Kaczinski,

Stephen Katra, Jeanne Keller

Mike Kirk - Finance Council Representative

FINANCE COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman

Mike Kirk - President/Moderator

Chris Hackley - Chief Financial Advisor / Mary Kosmin - Secretary

Jim McHugh, Mary Miller, Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters

Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative

Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

Online Contributing Made Easy



Please visit our website

www.stjohnsottsville.org

and click on the **Parish**

Giving link above. Follow the prompts to join our e-giving program. For information, please call the Parish Office.

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Laura Gumprecht Joel Roney Weez Roney	Jane Ferry	Jacob & Joshua Roney 1 Volunteer Needed	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci
SUNDAY 8AM	Mary Kosmin 2 Volunteers Needed	Anita Colahan	3 Volunteers Needed	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Black Claire Froman Shelby Rogers	Ward Van Haute	Hezekiah Van Haute 2 Volunteers Needed	Echoes of Christ

OUR SICK:



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



Jessie Alfaro, Caleb Cerino, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Wanda Bickel, Loretta Bodisch, Lillian Buckley, Brent Camilleri, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin & Arlene Eichlin, Christie Feikel, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Barney Fontenot, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Emilio J. Gonzales, Kathy Hancharik, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Kimberly Markulec, Rosanne McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, Ethan Meyers, Kay Mule, Helene Nastro, Dennis O'Connell, Jeff Olimpo, Mike Palmer, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Mary Pucci, Janet Reidler, Thomas Rimmer, Barbara Sabath, Adriana Salvucci, Lisa Saxton, Thomas Shepherd, Megan Slabicki, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, Bernadette Strzelecki, Riley Telesco, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Danielle Watson, Ed Wismer

*If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone you know, please call the Parish Office 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, Lane Charles Frankenfield, 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, Kathryn Salva, Jack Salva, Anne Salva, Thomas Salva, Jared Scott, 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

A Prayer for OUR COLLEGE STUDENTS:

James Gammello, Gianna Gammello, Michael Kosmin, Natalie Nice, Violet Williams

Heavenly Father, we lift up all college students to You today. We ask that You surround them with Your protection, keep them safe, guard their health and keep them strong and well. Protect their spiritual and emotional well-being as well. Keep them from negative influences and temptation, and ground them in faith, wisdom, and Your word. Grant them the discernment to make wise choices and the courage to flee evil. Please go where we cannot, give strength where we are weak, and bring them safely home. May they feel Your presence and know Your love surrounding them each and every day. We trust in Your power to protect and guide them. Amen.



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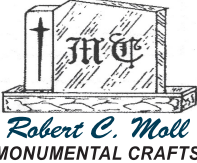


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