

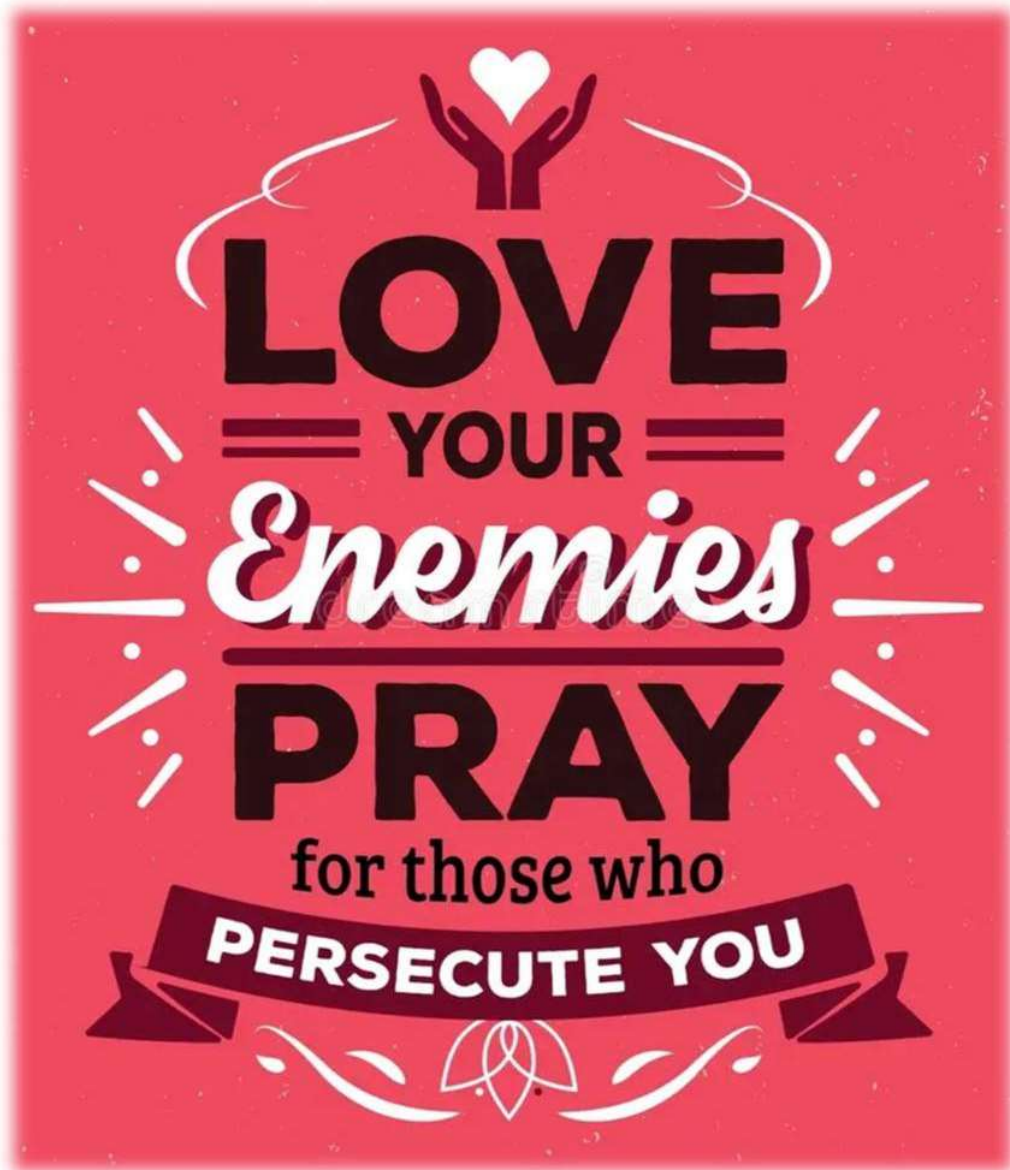
February 23rd, 2025 – **THE SEVENTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME**

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 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 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 24th – March 2nd, 2025

Monday: + Florence Capella (Mike & Cathy Moreni)
Tuesday: + Rose R. Viel (Jonathan & Kelly Kelly)
Wednesday: + Rita Spucces (James Gammello & Family)
Thursday: Intentions of Dolly Kovacs (Jim & Joan Black)
Friday: + Jim Bentz (Mary Kosmin)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: + Darlene Bittenmaster (Dave & Anne Slifer)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: Intentions of Kathy Jones (Jim & Joan Black)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm

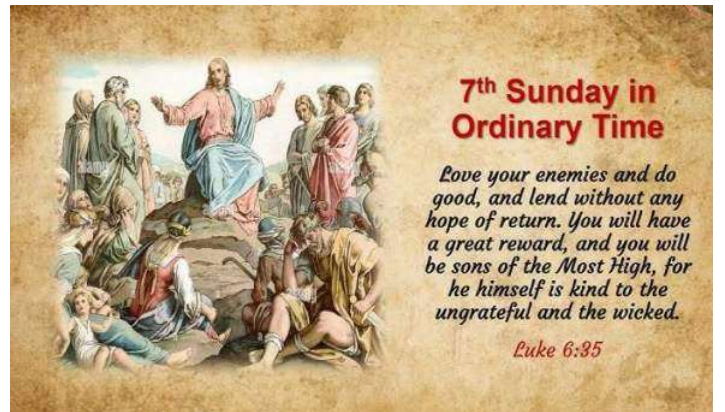
To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas, through the Parish Office.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

February 16th – Not Available due to early bulletin submission.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Wed. Feb 26: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Feb 26: Intercessory Prayer * - Zoom - 6:30pm
* EMAIL LAURA AT sjbevangel@stjohnsottsville.org
TO JOIN IN PRAYER, OR TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS.
Thu. Feb 27: Garden Club – St. Augustine Rm - 7:00pm



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!

FROM YOUR PASTOR

The present human society encourages the practice of ‘tit for tat’. Social media and movies even justify violence in this regard. Our children playing web games that promote violence makes the situation worse. Thus, the constant exposure to violent ambiance not only makes us harm our enemies, but also our benefactors even for a slight misunderstanding, forgetting all the good deeds that they had done to us. Jesus, on the other hand, calls us to become the sharers of God’s mercy.

The greatness of being merciful goes sky high when one chooses to forgive and show mercy even to his/ her enemy. It is what we read in today’s first reading wherein David showed mercy to Saul who was in fact trying to kill him. Thus, David proves that he is not like any ordinary human being, rather worthy of God’s love and honor that Jesus would be called ‘the Son of David’. Yes! We obtain the privilege of being the children of God only by imitating Jesus in all that we do. Let us, hence, remember that our acts of love help us remain the children of God. Likewise, the fact of being children of God should encourage us to show mercy to or even love our enemies.

Lord, help us grow in the attitude of not only showing mercy to our enemies, but also loving them as You loved us, sinners.

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.



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.

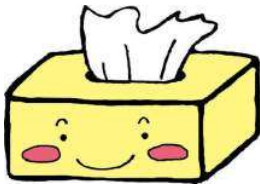


**FEAST DAY
HIGHLIGHT FOR
THE MONTH OF
FEBRUARY**



THE KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS COUNCIL 4545 is selling **CAPTAIN CHUCKY'S CRAB CAKES** just in time for Lent. Order forms with details are in the narthex and on the parish website. Knights will be accepting order forms after Mass this weekend.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-

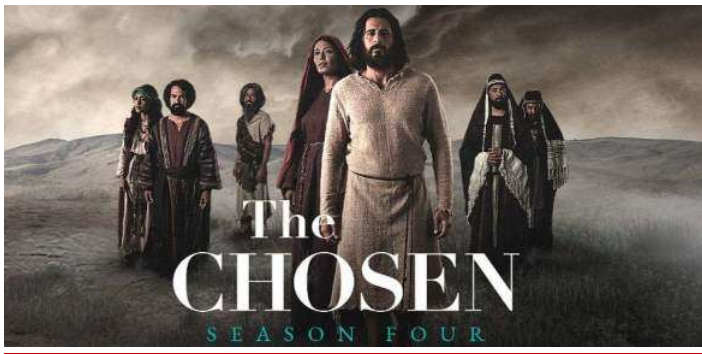


During February, would you please consider donating **tissues, Vitamin C drops, cough drops, deodorant & sanitary pads** to benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staples. We believe that with God's blessings and the help of our community, we can show our support for those most in need. Thank you for your generosity! **God bless, The Lord's Pantry Volunteers**

DON'T MISS OUT!!

Join us to see Season Four of 'The Chosen' on Tuesdays beginning March 4th at 7pm in the Marian Room. Featuring discussions with Fr. JoMar Legaspi. Light refreshments will be provided.

SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.



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.

MARCH PRO-LIFE PROMOTION



Each weekend in March the Pro-Life Ministry will be selling gifts cards for Saint Margaret of Castello Maternity Home. This Maternity Home is a residential home for pregnant women offering support, guidance, and physical security in a loving atmosphere throughout a woman's pregnancy. We also provide services to pregnant women and parents in the community. Our services are free of charge. Please visit our table in the Narthex for the list of gift cards needed.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH



St. John's Hospice for Homeless Men in Center City Philadelphia is again in need of our help. Our collection of needed items

in the narthex **will continue through this weekend February 22nd & 23rd**. Below is the list of needs. All outer clothing and boots/shoes can be new or gently used. Underwear, bedding, towels and toiletries should be new. Jeans will be most appreciated!

- Jeans with waist sizes 30", 32", 34" and 36"
- Underwear-all sizes
- Boots/shoes
- Light weather clothing
- Bedding- Twin size, white fitted sheets, and pillowcases only, please
- Towels & washcloths
- Toiletries including full size deodorant

Thank you in advance for your participation and your kind generosity!

*"For I was...naked and you clothed me" ...
'Amen, I say to you, whatever you did for one of these least brothers of mine, you did for me.'*

—Matthew 26: 35-36, 40.




**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of February 23rd
TEAM 4**

This is a once per month commitment.

Lenten Bible Study



Our Lenten Bible study this year will be the document *'Hope Does Not Disappoint'* by Pope Francis. This is the Pope's proclamation for the 2025 Jubilee Year. Come join us on Sundays at 9:15am starting March 9th. Sign up in the Narthex.

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

"A Quiet Country Retreat"



OVERNIGHT RETREATS Individual or Group up to 8

DAY PROGRAMS Groups up to 50 Individuals

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

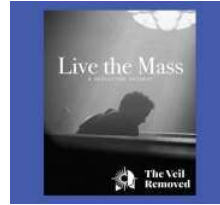
12PM-1PM. ST. Joseph's Chapel (large chapel, name on front of the building)

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



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Join us for an "overnight retreat" and experience the Mass on a deeper level that will amaze you! It promises to provide a new perspective of the most powerful prayer available to the human person: Including growing your personal relationship with Jesus, scripture, Praise, reconciliation, graces of the Eucharist, Jewish history of the Mass, presence of angels, and much more! There will be opportunities for Adoration and Confession. **WHEN:** March 28, 29 & 30, 2025

(Friday eve, Saturday & Sunday)

TIME: Friday 7pm Mar 28th - Sunday 4pm Mar 30th

WHERE: Ave Maria Retreat House at the **Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa**

COST: Determined by room choice. All 5 meals (3 on Sat, 2 on Sun) are included in the room cost.

Friday evening snacks are provided by the Evangelization team.

SAVE THE DATE: APRIL 12, 2025

16TH ANNUAL

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Fun Walk 2025



Online Contributing Made Easy!

Please visit our website www.stjohnsottsville.org and click on the Parish Giving link. Follow the prompts to join our e-giving program.

For more information, please call the Parish Office.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman
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Peg Glancey - Moderator
Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht, Nancy Kaczinski, Stephen Katra, Jeanne Keller
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Father Lucas - Chairman
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Chris Hackley, Jim McHugh, Mary Miller, Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager

MARCH 1ST & 2ND, 2025

THE 8TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Dorothy Cegielski Lynn Gammello Peg Glancey	Jane Ferry	Joel, Jacob & Joshua Roney	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8AM	Nancy Kaczinski Donna & Natalie Nice	Anita Colahan	Alexander & Justin Nice Blake Nowicki	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Frank Balbirer Wendy DeGroot Ward Van Haute	Sean Lynch	Audrey, Max & Hezekiah Van Haute	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, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin & Arlene Eichlin, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Sylvia Holznagel, 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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 Saturday & Sunday
 March 8-9, 2025

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 flying like Iron Man.

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