

January 5th, 2025 – THE EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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

We have come to
worship Him

~ Matthew 2:2 ~



SOLEMNITY OF THE
EPIPHANY OF THE LORD

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 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 6th – January 12th, 2025

Monday: † Donald Stahley (*Harold Rick*)
Tuesday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Wednesday: † Robert Tancredi (*Arlene Tancredi*)
Thursday: † Steve Salva (*Jim & Cristina McHugh*)
Friday: † James Haigh (*Regina Academy Faculty & Staff*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: † Bernadette Phillips (*Dave & Anne Slifer*)
Sunday 10:30am: † Jerry & Elizabeth Petritsch (*Geri Petrei*)

PARISH OFFICE HOURS: Mon–Fri 9am–5pm.

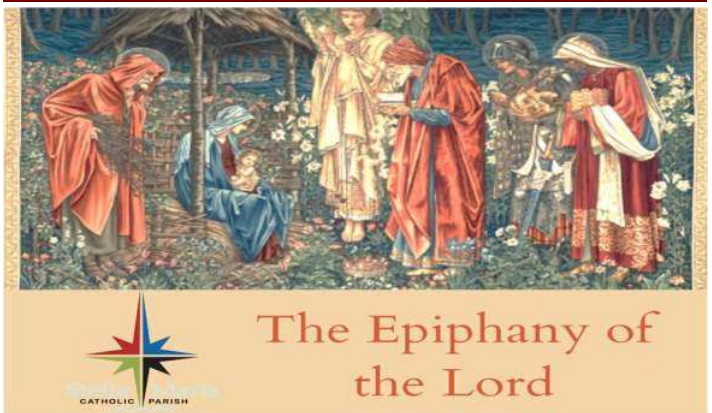
To plan a Baptism, Wedding, Funeral, private Confession, please contact our Pastor, Fr. Selvaraj Lucas through the Parish Office.

WEEKLY MASS COLLECTIONS

December 22nd - Envelopes \$4,107- E-Giving \$1,783
Christmas & December 29th - Not Available

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Wed. Jan 08: Flame of Love - Chapel – 8am
Wed. Jan 08: Intercessory Prayer – Zoom - 6:30pm
Wed. Jan 08: Evangelization Team Mtg – St. Augustine Rm – 7pm



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

Artaban the fourth Wise Man: In 1895, Henry van Dyke wrote the story, "The Other Wise Man," telling of a fourth wise man called Artaban. Our hero is not mentioned in the Gospel because he missed the caravan. He got to Bethlehem too late to see the Baby Jesus. But Artaban did make it in time, using one of his gifts for the newborn King to save one of the Holy Innocents by bribing a soldier.

For 33 years Artaban searched for Jesus. He did not find Jesus, but all the while the Fourth wise man used the precious gifts he had brought for the King to feed the hungry and help the poor. Then one day in Jerusalem Artaban saw the "King of the Jews" being crucified. He started to offer his last gift for the King, a great pearl, to the soldiers as ransom for Him. But then he saw a girl being sold into slavery to pay family debts. Artaban gave his pearl to buy freedom for the girl.

Suddenly there was an earthquake as Jesus died on the cross and a stone struck Artaban. Dying, he heard a Voice saying: "When you helped the least of my children, you helped me. Meet me in Heaven!" Artaban, the fourth Wise Man, had been making God present in his community for years by helping others. God asks each of us on the feast of Epiphany to be a fourth Wise Man by becoming God's epiphanies, making His love present in the world around us by our acts of love and kindness.

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.

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!

Attention Parishioners!

The Parish Office is collecting parishioners' emails from those who would like to be informed of events that occur with short notice (example, funerals). The forms to sign up are in the Narthex. Please complete the form and place it in the provided box. Thank you!

Friday, January 17, 2025 - 7-8:30 PM in the Chapel
Event: Our Lady of Hope, Her approved apparition in Pontmain, France.



Our Lady of Hope, also known as Our Lady of Pontmain, is a title given to the Virgin Mary after she is said to have appeared to six children in Pontmain, France on January 17, 1871, during the Franco-Prussian War.

**This is the Jubilee
Year of Hope!**

Please join us for a presentation about *Our Lady of Hope* and *SJB Red Rosary of Hope Ministry*.

Light refreshments will be served after the presentation.

Questions? Please contact: Anita Colahan
amcolahan@epix.net

Red Rosary of Hope Ministry Coordinator

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



Villa Maria by the Sea Retreat Center, Stone Harbor, NJ, has posted its schedule of programs for the winter and spring of 2025. For more information or to register, visit www.VMbytheSea.com.

Wednesday, January 22 - 10:00 am - 4:00 pm \$25

Private Day of Prayer - On the Day of Prayer for Legal Protection of the Unborn, spend a quiet day praying for the intention of the right to life from conception until natural death. Throughout the day, there will be periods of communal prayer for this very special intention. Lunch and Mass is provided.

Friday, January 31 - 8:45 am - 2:15 pm \$60*

Arise and Call her Blessed
Presented by Sr. Sheila Galligan, IHM

Come to celebrate God's gift of his Mother – whom we usually refer to as the Blessed Virgin Mary. Let's "push pause" and take some time to slowly squeeze the juice out of the descriptive "Blessed" as well as our everyday "go to" prayer: the Hail Mary. Let's come to appreciate the role the Blessed Mother plays in keeping us close to Jesus. Coffee and check-in begin at 8:45 am. The day includes Mass and lunch.

*You may opt to stay overnight the evening before this event for an additional \$95.

**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of January 5th
TEAM 2**

This is a once per month commitment.

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



The 2025 Lecture Series
SAVE THE DATE:
FEBRUARY 3, 2025,
7:00 p.m.

The John Cardinal Foley Chair at **SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO SEMINARY** is pleased to announce The 2025 Lecture Series featured speaker on “The Church and Social Communication”

MONTSE ALVARADO

President & Chief Operating Officer of EWTN News, Ms. Alvarado served as an Emcee of the 10th Annual National Eucharistic Congress and is the recipient of the 2024 Religious Freedom Impact Award.



This event is free and open to the public.

Due to the anticipated large turnout, this event will be held in the Julia Ball Auditorium at Gwynedd Mercy University, adjacent to the Seminary’s new campus in Lower Gwynedd.

More information about the Lecture Series can be found on the Cardinal Foley Chair webpage at www.scs.edu/chairs/foley-chair-of-social-communications/cardinal-foley-lecture-series/.

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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

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THE EPIPHANY

Epiphany (or Theophany, as it is known in the Eastern Rite Catholic Church), also known as Three Kings’ Day, is a Christian feast day that celebrates the revelation of God in His Son as human in Jesus Christ. The word epiphany comes from the Greek word meaning “manifestation.” The feast also commemorates the visit of the Magi to the Christ child, and thus Jesus’ physical manifestation to the Gentiles.

Typically celebrated on January 6, or the closest Sunday to that date, the feast of Epiphany allows us to truly comprehend what it means that God has brought His only Son into our world. The Wise Men – Caspar, Melchior, and Balthazar – were the first people outside of the stable to come and pay homage to Jesus. These unlikely royal visitors showered Jesus with gifts of gold, frankincense, and myrrh, herbs typically used for burial, possibly foreshadowing Jesus’ destiny.

The Magi were taking a huge risk in following the star to Bethlehem, but they trusted that God was leading them to something far greater than they could know. This is such a powerful example of how we as Christians should live our lives. Trusting that God knows what is best for us and that His plan, no matter how unattainable things might seem on the journey, will lead us to where we need to be. We should also have the strength to see Jesus in our lives in unexpected ways, and when we do, worship and adore Him.

The Epiphany not only signifies the calling of the chosen few, like the Wise Men, but it also is an invitation to anyone and everyone around the world to follow Christ. For the first time, God was physically present for people on Earth through His Son, no longer just a voice in the wilderness.

JANUARY 11TH & 12TH, 2025

THE BAPTISM OF THE LORD

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey Joel Roney	Patti Keyser	Jacob & Joshua Roney Christine Wimpenny	Fred Furmaniak Liz Torgerson
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Nina Carlineo Need 1 Volunteer	Marie Burke	Alaina Butler Blake & Max Nowicki	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Beebe Claire Froman Leona Russell	Ward Van Haute	Audrey, Max & Hezekiah Van Haute	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci



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 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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