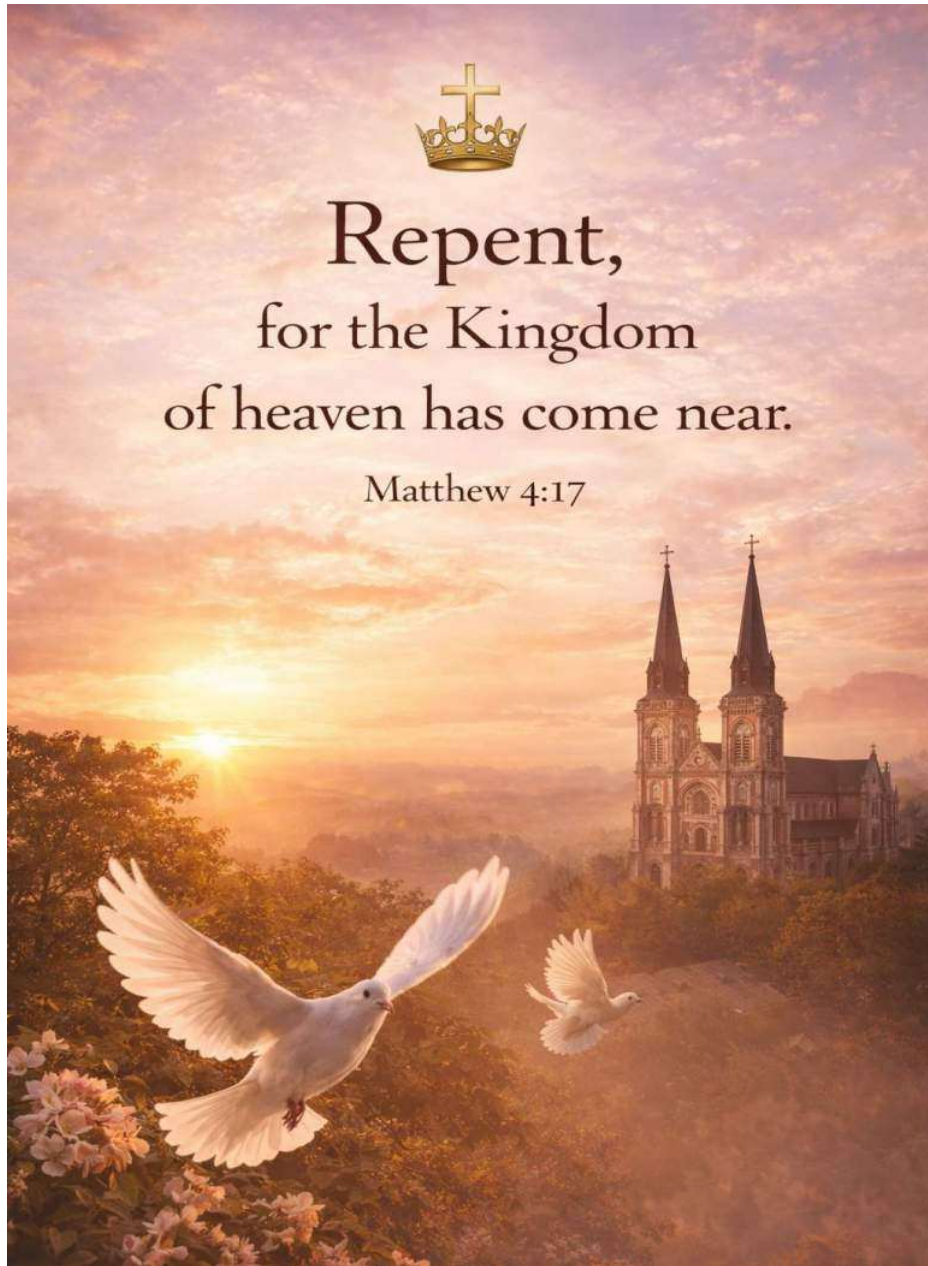


JANUARY 25<sup>TH</sup>, 2026 – THE 3<sup>RD</sup> SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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](http://www.stjohnsottsville.org)



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.

**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 January 26<sup>th</sup> – February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026**

**Monday:** † Ralph DeMaio (*Bernadette Strzelecki*)  
**Tuesday:** Intentions of Bernadette Strzelecki  
(*Jim & Joan Black*)  
**Wednesday:** † Steven Zoltek (*AWHS 70 Reunion Committee*)  
**Thursday:** Intentions of Ellie Widmer (*Jim & Joan Black*)  
**Friday:** Intentions of Bob Shopf (*Bernadette Strzelecki*)

**Weekend Masses**

**Saturday 4:30pm:** Parishioners' Intentions  
**Sunday 8am:** † Amy Kirk (*Rachel Cormier*)  
**Sunday 10:30am:** † Vic Petrei (*Loving Family*)

**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 18<sup>th</sup> - Envelopes \$1,865 - E-Giving \$1,627

*Thank you for your generosity!*

**WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS**

**Tue. Jan 27:** Choir Practice – Church - 7pm  
**Wed. Jan 28:** Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am  
**Wed. Jan 28:** Prayers of Petition\* - via Zoom - 7:00pm

\* **EMAIL LAURA AT [sibevangel@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:sibevangel@stjohnsottsville.org) TO JOIN IN PRAYER, OR TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS.**

**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!**

**RESPECT LIFE**



**Dear Parishioners-**

Thank you for your support of St. John's Baby Bottle Campaign for Crossroads Pregnancy

Care.

Your generous donations totaled \$3,173. This will go a long way in helping mothers decide to keep their babies.

**God bless you!**

## From Your Pastor-

Isaiah's prophecy in today's first reading is quoted by Matthew in today's Gospel. Isaiah takes us back to the celebration of the Birth of the Lord. The focus of this Sunday is the beginning of Jesus' public ministry. He starts His ministry saying, "Repent, for the kingdom of heaven has come near." I think in all three readings the kingdom of heaven is the main theme. Jesus Christ is the Kingdom of Heaven. Kingdom of heaven is the fulfilment of Isaiah's Prophecy.

The kingdom of heaven is first and foremost the powerful love of God which Jesus brings into human life and experience. It is equally a challenging love; it is both a gift and a task. The kingdom of heaven is God's unconditional love embodied in Jesus Christ. The kingdom of heaven sets us free from sin and guilt, sickness and fear, demonic forces of nature, greed for possessions and power, social and religious isolation and every form of enslavement.

The kingdom of heaven enables us to repent by choosing to be under the reign of God's love and believing that God loves us. The kingdom of heaven enables us to love God in others by accepting others as brothers and sisters. The kingdom of heaven enables us to reach out to those in need. The kingdom of heaven enables us to establish a just society by a relationship based on freedom, fellowship, justice and equality.

Lord Jesus helps us today that our personal belief is strengthened, so that we may give testimony to God's love and presence in the world.

**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.*

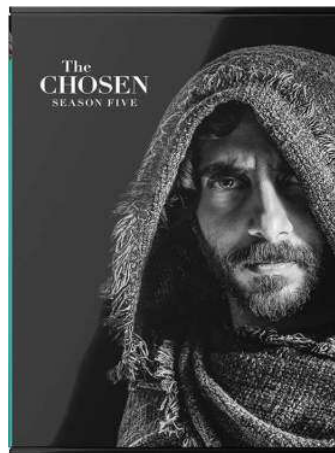


### PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

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

**Attention:** Parents/Guardians of **7<sup>th</sup> 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 at: [prep@stjohnsottsville.org](mailto:prep@stjohnsottsville.org).

### DON'T MISS OUT!



It's time for The Chosen, Season 5! Come join us to watch and discuss each episode on Tuesday nights, 6pm, beginning February 3<sup>rd</sup>. Fr. JoMar Legaspi will once again be leading the discussions! Light refreshments will be available.

**SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.**

**Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry**

Would you please consider donating these items this month?



- Chunky soups \* condiments**
- coffee \* tea \* jelly \* snacks**
- cream of mushroom soup**
- canned chicken \* 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**



**Weekend of February 7<sup>th</sup> & 8<sup>th</sup> after each Mass**

Please plan to stop at the Ministry tables in the Narthex after all Masses. We have

many ministries in our Parish that you may not be aware of! There will be someone at each table who can explain their ministry to you.

**Thank you for supporting our Parish ministries!!**

**KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS Council #4545**



**Captain Chucky's Crab Cake Sale**

The Knights will be accepting orders after Mass on **February 7<sup>th</sup>/8<sup>th</sup> & 14<sup>th</sup>/15<sup>th</sup>.**

**See SJB Website for Order Form.**



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

**Greetings from Across Campus,**

This past week has been one for the record books. Even the cold weather couldn't slow down our students, who put in a full and focused week of learning. Our 8th graders are diving into The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood with great enthusiasm; some even wishing they had swords like Robin and his Merry Men. Within Humanities, they moved seamlessly into studying the four principal parts of the verb and are already conjugating them with confidence. Humanities has quickly become a favorite, especially as students craft essays on castles of the Middle Ages. All of this work supports their memorization goals as they prepare for their upcoming declamation. More on that soon.

Across the Academy, excitement is building for Classical School Days next week. Students and teachers alike are looking forward to the joyful activities and festive atmosphere. This year's theme—Ancient Greece—promises to make the celebration especially memorable.

Wishing you a wonderful week filled with warmth and blessings.

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

**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

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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

## RETREAT DAY FOR SENIOR CITIZENS

**Date:** Saturday, February 21<sup>st</sup>, 2026

**Time:** 10 A.M.

**Where:** Fatima House Retreat Ctr.

**Topic:** Seniors Dealing with Faith and Life During Our Senior Years

**Lunch provided – Donations accepted**

**PLEASE CALL JOAN BLACK,  
DIRECTOR, AT 215-795-2947 IF  
YOU WISH TO ATTEND.**

*From the...*

### SJB EVANGELIZATION TEAM

Our parish evangelization team is proud to announce that we are holding a retreat on Divine Mercy this March. You may have heard of Divine Mercy or even prayed the novena or the chaplet, but few have heard the story of how God used people throughout many years in history to announce His message and to spread the message of His Divine Mercy.

The retreat will be held Friday night, March 20<sup>th</sup> through Sunday afternoon, March 22<sup>nd</sup> at Our Lady of Czestochowa in Doylestown. For more information, please see the flyer in the Narthex.



**NUN RUN 5K**  
April 18 at 10:00 AM  
Join us to support the mission & lives of our MSCSisters:  
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CWhitmoyer@mscreading.org  
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MSC Sisters  
www.MSCreading.org

## NUN RUN 5K & 1M Walk

Holy Guardian Angels Regional  
3125 Kutztown Rd., Reading, PA 19605

Help support the mission and lives of our Missionary Sisters of the Most Sacred Heart of Jesus!

Become a **SPONSOR**, a **RUNNER/WALKER** or a **VIRTUAL RUNNER/WALKER!**

All registrants receive a Nun Run t-shirt if registered by April 3<sup>rd</sup>.

### Online Contributing Made Easy



Please visit our website  
[www.stjohnsottsville.org](http://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.

*Happy New Year from the Archdiocese of Philadelphia*  
*Catholic Charismatic Renewal*  
Join us for prayer, praise,  
hope and joy in  
**2026!**




### Charismatic Conference

Saturday, May 9, 2026

With The Most Reverend Efrén V. Esmilla  
Epiphany of Our Lord Church in Plymouth Meeting, PA

Retreat - June 12-14, 2026

Malvern Family Life Center

Leadership Day

November 7, 2026

Epiphany of Our Lord Church



<https://archphilacer.org>



Maria Carmel  
Richardson  
Emcee

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Lynn & Gianna Gammello Kim Zampirri	Patti Keyser	Christine Wimpenny 2 Volunteers Needed	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler 2 Volunteers Needed	Anita Colahan	Alaina Butler 2 Volunteers Needed	Needed
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Beebe Wendy DeGroot Patty Salva	Joan Black	Elia, Fatu & Siri Logaivau	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, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, 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](mailto: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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