

July 20th, 2025 – 16TH 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
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok
Facilities Manager: Thomas Rimmer
Finance Manager/Bulletin/Website: Carolyn Marchese

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 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 July 21st - July 27th, 2025

Monday: † Mark & Betty Koch (*All Your Children*)
Tuesday: † Marie Louzon (*Georgina Puente*)
Wednesday: Intentions of Bernadette Strzelecki
(*Jim & Joan Black*)
Thursday: † Joseph & Wilhelmina Wismer (*Grandson Ed*)
Friday: † Robbin Danko (*The Giarratana Family*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: † Freeh-Johnson Family
(*David & Mary Grace Tillotson*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: † John Crossley (*Jessie Alfaro & 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

July 13th - Envelopes \$4,301 * E-Giving \$1,570

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Wed. Jul 23: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Jul 23: Prayers of Petition* - via Zoom - 6:30pm
* **EMAIL LAURA AT sibevangel@stjohnsottsville.org TO JOIN IN PRAYER, OR TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS.**
Thu. Jul 24: Garden Club – St. Augustine Rm - 6pm

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!

**OCIA**, the process in which adults become full participating members of the Catholic Church by receiving the sacraments of Baptism, Communion and Confirmation, will be starting on Monday, September 15th from 6:15 – 7:30pm. Please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521 for more information.

REGISTRATION IS REQUIRED.

From Your Pastor

Today's Gospel gives us a powerful moment in the life of Jesus - His visit to the home of Martha and Mary in Bethany. It's a scene filled with love, hospitality, and deep spiritual insight. But it also reveals a tension that many of us can relate to - the tension between doing and being, between serving others and sitting at the feet of Jesus.

Martha is busy. She's working hard, trying to make everything just right for her guest and not just any guest, but the Lord Himself! Her work is good, generous, and deeply rooted in love. But in the process, she becomes anxious, distracted, and resentful. She even complains to Jesus, asking Him to tell Mary to help her.

Mary, on the other hand, simply sits at the feet of Jesus, listening to His words. And Jesus tells Martha, "Martha, Martha, you are anxious and worried about many things. There is need for only one thing. Mary has chosen the better part, and it will not be taken from her."

This is not a criticism of Martha's service - it's a gentle correction of her anxiety and distraction. Jesus reminds her, and us, that our work must flow from our relationship with Him. We must never get so caught up in doing things for Jesus that we forget to spend time with Jesus.

We live in a culture that glorifies productivity, busyness, and achievement. We are always "on the go," multitasking, checking emails, running errands, working late. Even in our parishes and ministries, we can become like Martha - always busy but often spiritually drained.

Jesus is gently reminding us today that if we don't first sit at His feet - in prayer, silence, Scripture, and Sacrament - our service can become just another source of stress.

This Gospel is not about choosing between Martha or Mary. The Church needs both. We need the action of Martha and the contemplation of Mary. What Jesus is teaching us is about balance - letting prayer guide our work and allowing silence to renew our souls.

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.

BUYERS NEEDED!

Summer shopping with a side of Christmas magic?
Yes, please!



We are having **Christmas in July** this weekend!
Please help support our church. All proceeds will be used for the maintenance of our Parish. Thank you!



SAINTS JOACHIM AND ANNE

There will be a blessing of Grandparents during the Masses on July 26th & 27th.



On July 26 the Roman Catholic Church commemorates the parents of the Virgin Mary, Saints Joachim and Anne. The couple's faith and perseverance brought them through the

sorrow of childlessness, to the joy of conceiving and raising the immaculate and sinless woman who would give birth to Christ.

The New Testament contains no specific information about the lives of the Virgin Mary's parents, but other documents outside of the Biblical canon do provide some details. Although these writings are not considered authoritative in the same manner as the Bible, they outline some of the Church's traditional beliefs about Joachim, Anne and their daughter.

The "Protoevangelium of James," which was probably put into its final written form in the early second century, describes Mary's father Joachim as a wealthy member of one of the Twelve Tribes of Israel. Joachim was deeply grieved, along with his wife Anne, by their childlessness. "He called to mind Abraham," the early Christian writing says, "that in the last day God gave him a son Isaac."

Joachim and Anne began to devote themselves to rigorous prayer and fasting, in isolation from one another and from society. They regarded their inability to conceive a child as a surpassing misfortune, and a sign of shame among the tribes of Israel.

As it turned out, however, the couple were to be blessed even more abundantly than Abraham and Sarah. An angel revealed this to Anne when he appeared to her and prophesied that all generations would honor their future child: "The Lord has heard your prayer, and you shall conceive, and shall bring forth; and your seed shall be spoken of in all the world."

After Mary's birth, according to the Protoevangelium of James, Anne "made a sanctuary" in the infant girl's room, and "allowed nothing common or unclean" on account of the special holiness of the child. The same writing records that when she was one year old, her father "made a great feast, and invited the priests, and the scribes, and the elders, and all the people of Israel."

"And Joachim brought the child to the priests," the account continues, "and they blessed her, saying: 'O God of our fathers, bless this child, and give her an everlasting name to be named in all generations' ... And he brought her to the chief priests; and they blessed her, saying: 'O God most high, look upon this child, and bless her with the utmost blessing, which shall be forever.'"

The protoevangelium goes on to describe how Mary's parents, along with the temple priests, subsequently decided that she would be offered to God as a consecrated Virgin for the rest of her life, and enter a chaste marriage with the carpenter Joseph.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



With summer vacation upon us, would you please consider donating snacks children will enjoy such as:

Granola Bars
Cookies
Crackers
Fruit Roll-Ups
Juice Boxes



You will benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staples and bring happiness to kids! 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



Are pieces of your child's life not fitting together? Is spiritual life disconnected from the person? Disruptions of our lives have been caused by Covid, family moves, and other life situations.

If an older child still needs sacraments and encounter experiences with Jesus, contact the Director of Religious Education at prep@stjohnsottsville.org to discuss opportunities to grow as a child of God.



**PARISH RELIGIOUS
EDUCATION**

2025 – 2026 Registration is Open for PREP
Classes Begin Monday, September 15th, 2025
Class time: 6:15 – 7:30pm Monday in the school

Registration Forms for Returning Students for 2025-26 have been mailed. Parents of New Students of any grade level for 2025-26 should contact the Parish Office: prep@stjohnsottsville.org OR 610-847-5521.

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 at prep@stjohnsottsville.org by September 30th, 2025.

SACRAMENT DATES 2025-26:
FIRST PENANCE – Saturday, December 6, 2025
at 10:30 A.M.
FIRST HOLY COMMUNION – Saturday, April 25, 2026
at 10:30 A.M.
CONFIRMATION – Saturday, May 2, 2026
at 5:00 P.M. Mass
Bishop John J. Mc Intyre



Encountering God in the Beauty of Creation

Step away from the noise and hurry of life this summer and join us for Be Still Saturdays — a simple, sacred time to pause, pray, and open your heart to the ways God speaks through silence, stillness, and nature. Whether walking, paddling, or resting on the shore, allow the beauty of creation to draw you closer to the Creator.



Saturday, August 9, 2025 - 9:00 am-2:30 pm

Event: Introduction to Genesis Mission: A Practical, 'How to' Workshop on Person-to-Person Evangelizing

Genesis Mission is a Catholic apostolate from England. They will be visiting Philadelphia to teach us their method for sharing your Catholic Faith with the people you encounter in your everyday life. Come and learn some practical tools for helping to win souls for Christ! You will also learn about how Genesis Mission can work with your parish to raise up missionary disciples through a small group training process.

Location: Nativity of Our Lord Gymnasium, 605 West Street Road, Warminster, PA

More info: \$25 per person incl. materials, coffee & lunch; to register visit phillyevang.org/events.



39TH ANNUAL MSC GOLF BENEFIT

**FRIDAY,
SEPTEMBER
12TH, 2025**

At Whitetail Golf Club in Bath, PA * 10:00 AM Shotgun Start



ARCHDIOCESE OF PHILADELPHIA
**CATHOLIC
WOMEN'S
CONFERENCE**

2025 Catholic Women's Conference

10th Anniversary

***"Women on Mission:
The Feminine Genius in the New Apostolic Age"***

Saturday, October 18, 2025, 9am-4:00pm

At this year's conference, we will explore the beauty of our feminine genius and the unique position of Catholic women, transformed by Christ, to bring the light of the Gospel to a society that no longer knows it needs Him.

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman
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FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

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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**

JULY 20TH, 2025 – 16TH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME
July 26th & 27th, 2025 | **17th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey Dave Slifer	Anne Slifer	Christine Wimpenny 2 Volunteers Needed	Patty Leidner
SUNDAY 8AM	Nancy Kaczinski Donna & Natalie Nice	Marie Burke	Alexander & Justin Nice 1 Volunteer Needed	Laura Fleck Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Beebe Samantha Campbell Wendy DeGroot	Joan Black	Melissa & Khloe Demusz 1 Volunteer Needed	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, Brent Camillier, Eileen Carlineo, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin & Arlene Eichlin, Christie Feikel, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Craig Herrman, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klings, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Kimberly Markulec, Rosanne McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Helene Nastro, Dennis O'Connell, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, Barbara Sabbath, 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, 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, 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



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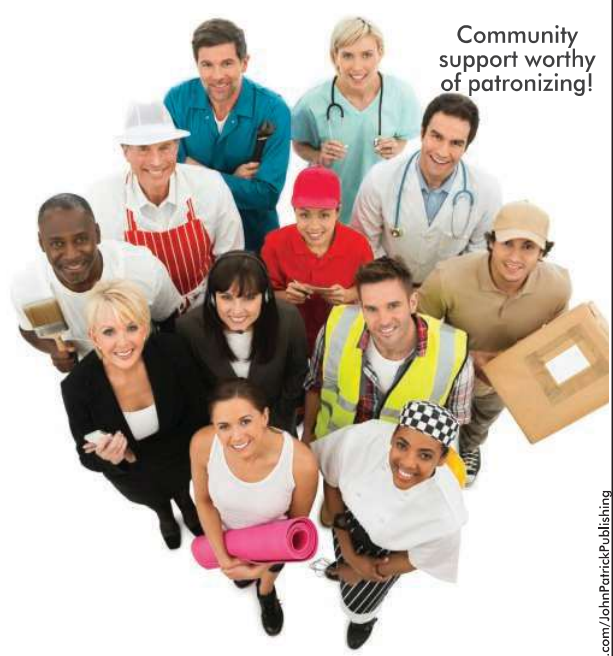


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