

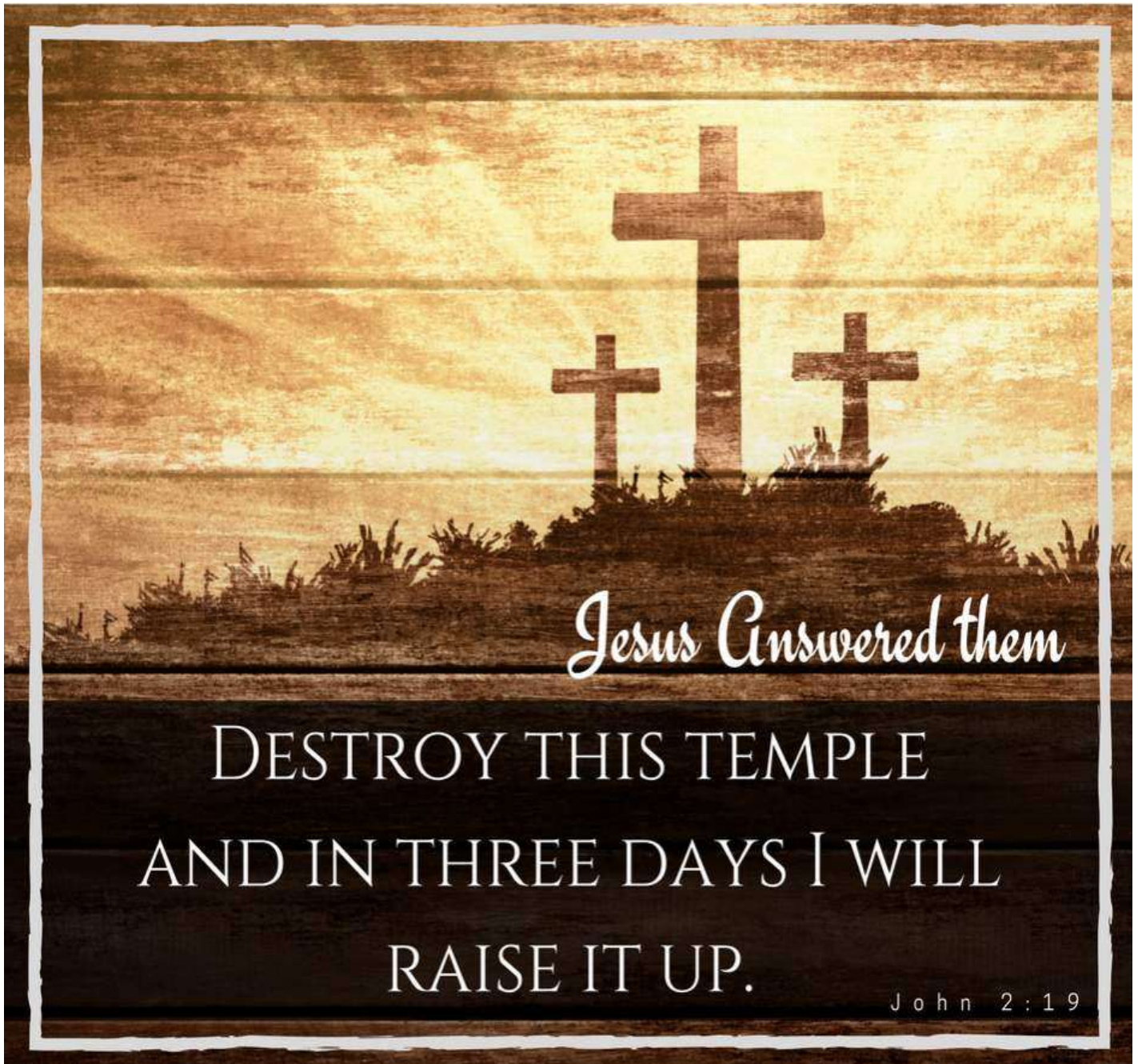
March 3rd, 2024 – The 3rd Sunday of Lent

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



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 of 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 March 4th – March 10th, 2024

Monday: Intentions of Robert Parash (*Mike & Cathy Moreni*)
Tuesday: † Bill Saxton (*A Friend*)
Wednesday: † The Holy Souls in Purgatory (*Jim & Joan Black*)
Thursday: † Ralph Rick (*Harold Rick*)
Friday: † Tom High (*Jo & Your Girls*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: † Ralph Rick (*Dolores & Doug Warmkessel*)
Sunday 10:30am: † John DeStefano (*The Scheliga Family*)

CONFESSIONS AT 5:30PM AND
MASS IN THE CHAPEL AT 6 PM
ON WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT.



All are Welcome to our Parish's **LENTEN SOUP ON FRIDAYS DURING LENT AT 5 PM** in the Narthex. We will serve soup, crackers, bread & desserts. Afterwards, we will pray the **STATIONS OF THE CROSS AT 6PM.**

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 18th Envelopes \$5,794 * E-Giving \$1,857
February 25th Envelopes \$7,081 * E-Giving \$2,182
Ash Wednesday \$2,109

THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Mon. Mar 04: Knights of Columbus – Marian Room – 7:30pm
Tue. Mar 05: **The Chosen-Season 3** Study –St. Augustine Rm-7:00pm
Tue. Mar 05: SJB Choir Practice - 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

In today's second reading, writing to the Christians of Corinth, St. Paul explains that Jesus' death was a stumbling block to the Jews. They couldn't accept that the Messiah, their Savior and King, would die, that power and domination and influence were what counted in their world.

That common criminal should be worshiped as Lord was nonsense, crucifixion was something to be ignored and laughed at and rubbished as it still is by many in our own society today. It is the very heart of our faith. Everyone is called to answer the call. It is the power and wisdom of God. It is with the eyes of faith one can see the power of love in the death of Christ.

In the Gospel reading, we find a dramatic scene where Jesus shows himself as Lord of the Temple. He drove out all the traders of cattle, sheep and pigeons and the animals that were used in sacrifices, and the money changers. Such business practices should have been carried out just outside of the temple. The Jews were trying to question him –what sign can you show us to justify doing this?

Then Jesus replied: "Destroy this temple, and in three days I will raise it." Indeed, Jesus spoke about another temple where God lived – his own body. Through this event we are reminded during Lent of what we are preparing to remember and celebrate - the death and resurrection of Jesus.

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 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.

GOD'S BLESSINGS ON THE BAPTISM OF



Penny Madeline Mruk

PRAYERS TO ST. PEREGRINE

Every Tuesday morning, following the 9am Mass we will be praying for those who are suffering from cancer and other diseases. We will be saying Prayers to St. Peregrine.

Please join us in praying for all who are suffering.

Holy Communion for the Sick & Homebound

Are you or your family member unable to attend Mass and receive Holy Communion? If you would like to receive Holy Communion, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521.

We will make arrangements to bring the Lord to you.

"THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3"

We are viewing "The Chosen – Season 3" on Tuesdays at 7pm in the St. Augustine Room. We are blessed that Fr. Jomar is joining us once again to answer questions and provide his excellent insights!

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.

PARISH SURVEY

If you are interested in signing up for a Focus Group to help address the outstanding issues from the Parish Survey, please do so this weekend. **Sign-up sheets are in the Narthex.**



MARCH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



The SJB Parish Ministry focus for March is the **Hospitality and Community Outreach Ministry (HCOM)!**

The ministry recently completed a successful clothing drive for St. John's Hospice in Philadelphia thanks to parishioners' generosity! If you participated in donating to St. John's Hospice, you are automatically "part" of this parish ministry! Thank you and welcome!

Once a month (on the 2nd full weekend) hospitality is offered after each Mass with light refreshments to encourage parishioners to socialize and enjoy. **Next weekend is the Second Sunday! Please come to the Marian Room 15 min. before any Mass if you want to help, which is always needed!**

The HCOM also hosts the **Lenten Friday Soup Supper**. Help is always needed! **If you want to make soup for March 8th or 15th, please contact Mary at wmckmiller@verizon.net or Patti at pbkeyser128@gmail.com.**

Also, new Ideas are always welcome for ways to reach out and serve our community within and outside the parish. Please contact Mary or Patti.



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

for children who attend public school, private non-Catholic school, or at-home secular learning experiences, is provided at St. John the Baptist on Monday evenings from September through May.

Any family not yet registered should contact the Director of Religious Education at prep@stjohnsottsville.org or call 610-847-5521.

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Rachel's Vineyard is an extraordinary healing opportunity for **any** person who struggles with emotional and spiritual pain of traumatic pregnancy loss, whether through abortion or miscarriage. Our weekend retreats are a unique and effective process designed specifically to help you experience the mercy and compassion of God. In a safe, confidential, non-judgmental group environment, you can grieve your loss while understanding and releasing any deep feelings of anger, shame, and guilt you may have. This process is extremely helpful for people who struggle with forgiving themselves or others. We also welcome those who have worked in the abortion industry to heal from their wounds, as well. The weekend will help your soul find a voice and transform the pain of the past into hope. Rachel's Vineyard is a "therapy for the soul" that combines a unique and creative process for psychological and spiritual healing.

Come to our Healing Weekend Retreat April 12 – 14, 2024
National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown, PA
To register, or for information, please call Evelyn at (215) 317-5752.
Read more about our retreats online at www.rachelsvineyard.org.
All requests are strictly confidential.



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.



LIVE THE MASS RETREAT

A reflective women's retreat, **"LIVE THE MASS"** weekend is April 13th & 14th at the Ave Maria Retreat House at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Information & registration forms for the retreat are in the Narthex.

SPACE IS LIMITED FOR THE RETREAT, SO PLEASE PRAYERFULLY CONSIDER SIGNING UP. REGISTRATION ENDS MARCH 17TH, 2024.

The "Live the Mass" retreat is meant to generate amazement and awe for the Mass by providing a new perspective of the most powerful prayer available to the human person. You will never look at the Mass the same way again!

"Live the Mass" offers new perspectives on being a child of God, praise, and reconciliation, teaching and discussing how to pray the readings, the power of the priest's role, the graces of the Eucharist, our personal relationship with Jesus and much more.

No matter where you are on your faith journey, you can always get more out of Mass. There is always more to learn and take away from the Mass, especially when we break it down and realize what takes place on the altar at every mass. **EVERY MASS!**

The Eucharist and Mass are where we find our strength for daily life. Often consumed by worries and fears, this weekly Mass is where Christ gives us the strength to live each day with courage and hope.

As Padre Pio said, "The Mass is a mystery, the more you look into it, the more you find in it, and what you find in it is **ALWAYS** love, the love of God." And as St. John Vianney said, "Fall in love with Christ and everything else will fall into place."

Let Him love you. God is gentle and patient as we go through the process of transformation. Let Him love you all the way to Heaven!

God wants a deeper relationship with you. What better place to start than with the Mass.

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



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To schedule your retreat and for additional information
please call Joan Black at 215-795-2947

CATHOLIC PREACHING INSTITUTE SURVEY

The new Catholic Preaching Institute (CPI) at Saint Charles Seminary invites you to participate in what could be the largest-ever study of its kind in the nation. Using the survey below, **tell us what you think about the homilies you hear at Mass – really! honestly!** It only takes 10 minutes to do!

Take the survey at <https://catholicleaders.online/phillypreaching>
or visit <https://www.scs.edu/preaching/>

Then invite each of your family members to do the same and share this with all your Catholic friends and contacts! With everyone's input, CPI will design programs to make preaching in the archdiocese more compelling ... so that your experience of the Word of God becomes even more inspiring. *Don't wait – the survey closes March 22!*

PASTORAL COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman

Ted Fahy - President

Marie Burke - Secretary

Peg Glancey - Moderator

Helene Bell, Chris Grindrod, Laura Gumprecht,

Nancy Kaczinski, Stephen Katra, Jeanne Keller

Mike Kirk - Finance Council Representative

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MARCH 3RD, 2024 – THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 9th & 10th, 2024

4th Sunday of Lent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Laura Gumprecht Weez Roney	Kim Zampirri	Brady Mattle Jacob Roney Joshua Roney	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Need 1 Volunteer	Marie Burke	Alaina Butler Christine Wimpenny Need 1 Volunteer	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Frank Balbirer Joan Beebe	Sean Lynch	Melissa Demusz Khloe Demusz Need 1 Volunteer	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



OUR SICK:

Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Helene Bell, Loretta Bodisch, **Lillian Buckley**, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Barbara Docs, Marvin Eichlin, Joe Fekete, Melanie Fioretta, Betty Fleck, Tom Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy & Mark Hancharik, Maryann Hauber, Stephen Holznagel, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Pat Kreschollek, Chris Leahy, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Loretta Malloy, Roseann McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Nancy Moreno, Helene Nastro, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Helen Pepkowski, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Barbara Sabbath, Adriana Salvucci, Thomas Shepherd, Bella Sosa, Tony Souza, Don Stahley, Simon Tirpok, Fr. Joseph Tobias, MSC, Bambina Ventresca, Helen Wall, Ed Wismer

If someone no longer needs prayers, please advise the Parish Office so that we may keep the list up-to-date.

OUR TROOPS:

Jamie Steven Ayuso, Fionna M. Boyle, Derek Brosius, Christopher Brune, Kyle Crossland, David Fisher, Anthony James 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



May God protect and watch over our troops.



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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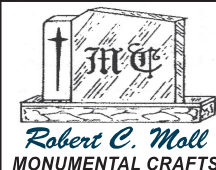

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