

MARCH 8TH, 2026 – THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

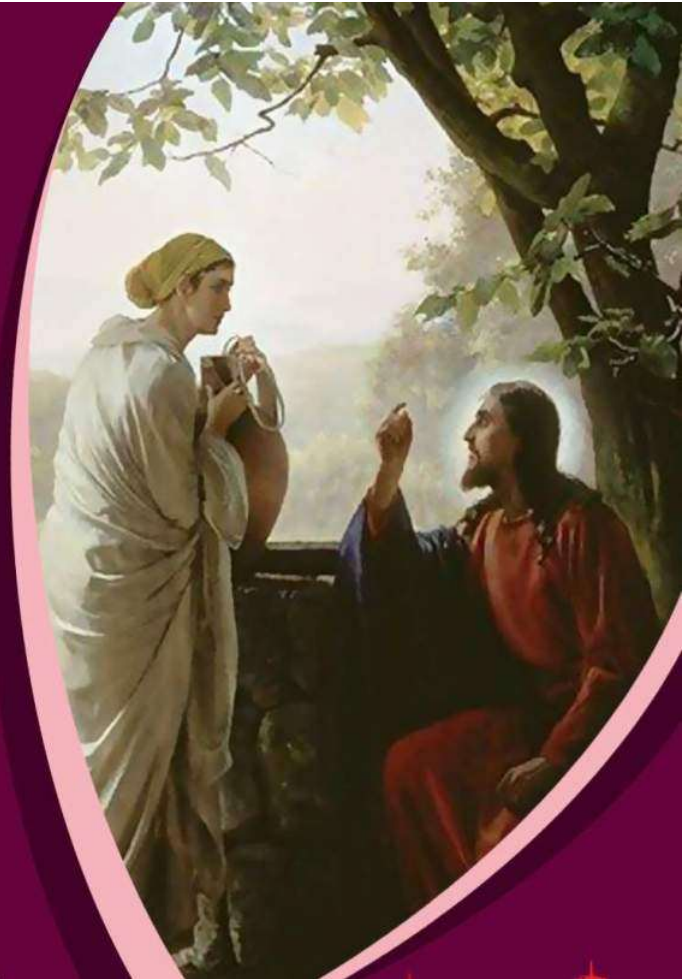
The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist Parish

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

Jesus and the Samaritan Woman

John 4:5–42



3rd Sunday of Lent

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.

MARCH 8TH, 2026 – THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

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 March 9th – March 15th, 2026

Monday: † Bill Saxton (*Georgina Puente*)
Tuesday: † Helen Pepkowski (*Family*)
Wednesday: † Joe Cegielski (*Wife & Daughter*)
Thursday: † Chris Leahy (*Family*)
Friday: † Nancy Moreno (*Mary Miller*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm: † Ryan Patrick Kelly (*Chris Zdanowicz*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: † Pat Kreschollek (*Mary Miller*)

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

March 1st - Envelopes \$5,638 - E-Giving \$1,761

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Mar 08: Lenten Bible Study – Marian Rm - 9:15pm
Mon. Mar 09: Prayer Shawl - Marian Room – 6:30pm
Tue. Mar 10: Viewing of "The Chosen" – Marian Rm - 6pm
Tue. Mar 10: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Mar 11: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Thu. Mar 12: Retreat Committee Mtg.- Marian Rm - 6:00pm

WEDNESDAYS DURING LENT



**CONFESSIONS
AT 6:30PM
MASS AT 7:00 PM
IN THE CHAPEL**



All are welcome to our Parish Lenten Soup Suppers on Fridays at 6pm during Lent through March 27th. Stations of the Cross follows at 7pm in the Narthex. We will serve soup, crackers, bread and desserts.

A sign-up sheet is in the Narthex for those who can help set up at 5:30 and for anyone who can bring soup & desserts for dinner. *Thank you & God bless!*

For information, please call Mary at 215-896-4034.

From Your Pastor-



In today's first reading from Exodus we hear how Israel, the chosen people of God, complains to Moses for water.

People are thirsty but they fail to have faith in God who brought them out of Egypt.

In the Gospel reading we see the Samaritan woman coming to the well to draw water to quench her thirst, as she might be coming daily. At this same time, Jesus is coming to ask for a drink from this same Samaritan woman to quench his thirst.

Now, Jesus promises the Samaritan woman to give her the living water if only she asks. What does this living water symbolize? It symbolizes the real happiness of life that we find in God alone. We can find that living water in ourselves welling up by becoming and living as Christ did. It is for this transformation of all of us human beings that Jesus thirsts and it is for this change that Jesus is asking from each one of us today.

Jesus continually calls all of us to live like him and show perfect love towards our neighbors. It is for this love that God gave his only Son for our sins as a ransom to die on the Cross that we hear in today's second reading from Romans. Humans we are, we fail, fall and stray away from God, but we can always come back to God by the corporal works of mercy, and this is the thirst of God that we can quench by becoming 'alter Christus'.

May Christ give us that spring of living water which enables us to be in touch with our core self and help us live for others.

**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.

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!

ST. JOSEPH ADOPTION NOVENA: MARCH 10-18

As we continue in our journeys of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving this Lent, please consider joining in the St. Joseph Novena for those whose lives are affected by adoption in preparation for St. Joseph's Feast Day on March 19th.

See the handout in the Narthex to join.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry



Would you please consider donating these items:

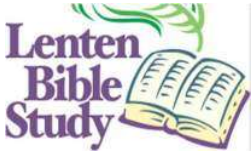
**Chunky soups
condiments (ketchup, mustard,
salad dressings, mayo)**

**coffee * tea * juice * cream of mushroom soup
canned chicken/ham * whole tomatoes * shampoo
snacks * laundry detergent * scalloped potatoes**

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**

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Please join us for our Lenten Bible Study on Sundays at 9:15am in the Marian Room. This year we will view videos explaining the gospels and other relevant topics. Presenters include Scott Hahn, Brandt Pitre, Edward Sri, and Fr. Chris Alar. You won't want to miss the insights offered by these popular Catholic leaders! [Sign up in the Narthex](#)



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

Greetings from across campus,

What a wonderful week it has been at the Academy. Our teachers and students are energized as we begin a new trimester, and with this fresh start we can already see signs of growth, both in the budding spring around us and in the hearts and minds of our students who are ready to embrace new challenges.

Across the lower wing, students continue to delight in their Socratic circles, eagerly engaging in thoughtful conversations. Our first graders have been reading the story of Moses and the Ten Commandments, making beautiful connections to their own lives. Their reflections on the natural virtues of childhood—the innocence, goodness, and desire to do what is right—are a joy to witness.

In the upper wing, students are exploring the theme of contemporary persecution, beginning with the story of Daniel in the Lion's Den. From there, they share their own perceptions of what modern-day persecution looks like. Each student has the opportunity to contribute, fostering a spirit of active participation, courage, and respectful dialogue.

Our eighth graders continue to impress with their maturity and philosophical insight during their Socratic discussions. As they read *The Merry Adventures of Robin Hood*, they have been debating a timeless question: is Robin Hood a hero or a villain? Their thoughtful arguments on both sides reveal not only strong reasoning skills but also a growing understanding of justice, virtue, and moral complexity.

What do you think, hero or villain?

Wishing you a wonderful week.

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

NEXT WEEKEND - PLEASE STOP BY! PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS



Next weekend we will have a **Parish Social** after each Mass. **All are welcome to stay, enjoy hospitality & get to know your church family.**

We will be selling and taking orders for gift cards after all the Masses next weekend. Please visit us in the Narthex to get your order form and sign-up for program benefits! **Thank you for your support!**



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of March 8th
TEAM 3**

This is a once per month commitment.



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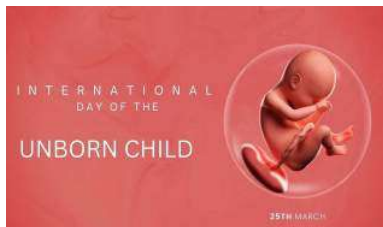


PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention: Parents of **New Students** of any grade level should contact the Parish Office at:
610-847-5521 or prep@stjohnsottville.org.

Attention: 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.

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Did you know?

March 25th is the International Day of the Unborn Child! Since this is exactly nine months before Christ's birth on December 25th, we are

asking everyone to join the SJB Respect Life Team in praying a 9-month Novena for the unborn.

Please find the prayer sheets in the Narthex.

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

SJB Nitty Gritty Garden Club

You are invited!

Guest Speaker: Jackie Chapman, Founder, The Garden Girl Company

What You'll Learn: • Proper Pruning Techniques • Managing

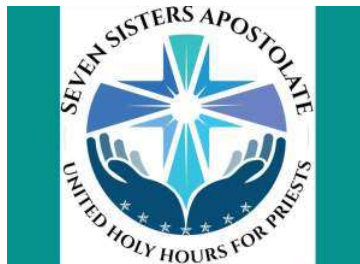
Invasive Bedding Plants • Starting a Beautiful Wildflower Garden

Thursday, March 26 • 6:00 PM \$10.00 at the door
• Open to Members & Guests Light Refreshments • Q & A After the Talk

About The Garden Girl Company

The Garden Girl Company is a Bucks County-based fine-gardening business founded in 2011 by Jackie Chapman. Specializing in seasonal container design, garden maintenance, and property care, the company blends horticultural expertise with thoughtful design to create outdoor spaces that feel welcoming and alive. Known for its commitment to community and education, Garden Girl is passionate about helping others grow with confidence.

Come Learn. Get Inspired. Grow This Spring.



THE SEVEN SISTERS APOSTOLATE

Dear Ladies of the Parish,
Sisters in Christ,

The Seven Sisters Apostolate is an international ministry whose mission is to pray for individual priests in small groups of only seven women. Each woman chooses a different day of the week and offers one Holy Hour of prayer for the sole intention of a specific priest. The Seven Sister may pray at any time on that day.

The Holy Hour is ideally prayed in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament - either in adoration or in front of the Tabernacle - but not restricted to the parish of which the Seven Sister is a member. If we are so blessed to have more than seven women, substitutes could fill in if, for some reason, the assigned sister could not fulfill her commitment which is for one year.

According to a commentary in CatholicPhilly.com posted February 12th, 2026,

"Priests are central to the faith journey of every Catholic. They baptize us into the family of God, extend God's infinite mercy to us in the sacrament of reconciliation, and bring us to a personal encounter with Christ in the celebration of the Eucharist."

"Priests celebrate with us, console us, and commend our souls to the Lord. They are pastoral and sacramental shepherds on our pilgrimage of faith."

Let us unite in prayer for Father Lucas, our pastor.

If you feel called by the Holy Spirit to this beautiful ministry or have questions, please call Kathy Angello at 267-251-9513.

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

MARCH 8TH, 2026 – THE 3RD SUNDAY OF LENT

March 14th & 15th, 2026

The 4th Sunday of Lent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Shelby Rogers Weez Roney 1 Volunteer Needed	Joan Black	Joel, Jacob & Joshua Roney	Sue Rogers SJB Choir
SUNDAY 8AM	Nina Carlineo Mary Kosmin Jim McHugh	Jane Ferry	3 Volunteers Needed	Martin Elsner
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Anne Luna Robyn Piccinic Ward Van Haute	Tony Luna	Olivia Luna Hezekiah Van Haute 1 Volunteer Needed	Ordinary Time

OUR SICK:



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



Jessie Alfaro, Caleb Cerino, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., **Robert Balbirer**, 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, Doreen Illis, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Kimberly Markulec, Rosanne McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiore, Ethan Meyers, Kay Mule, Helene Nastro, Dennis O'Connell, Jeff Olimpo, Mike Palmer, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Mary Pucci, Janet Reidler, Thomas Rimmer, 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.
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



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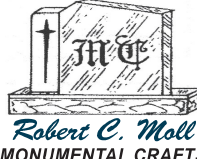


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 In remembrance of *samantha josephson*

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 to Our Church!**




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