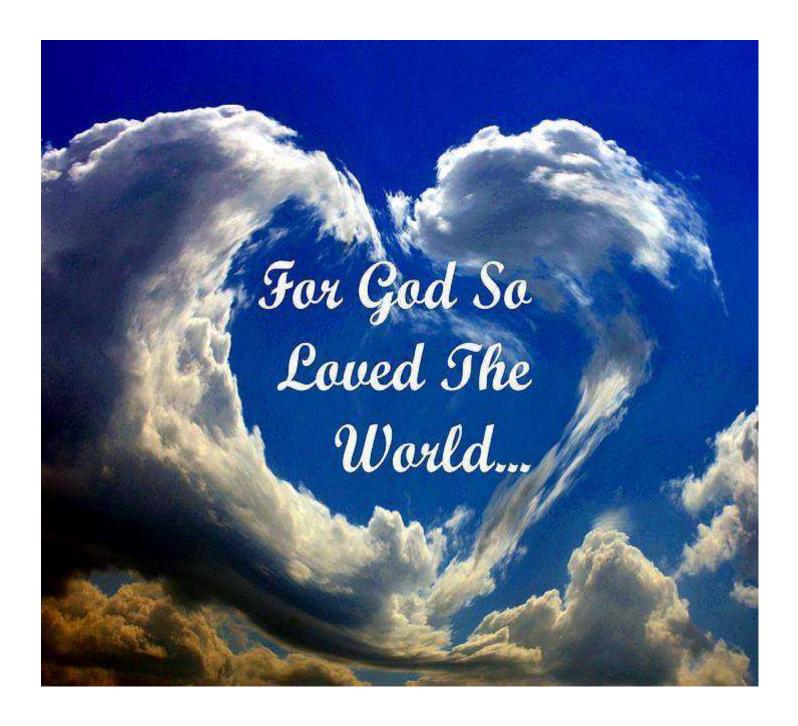
The Roman Catholic Church of St. John the Baptist Parish

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.

<u>Register in the Parish</u>: Please contact the Parish Office

to register when you move into our parish.

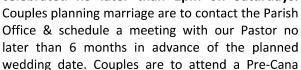
<u>Certificates of Eligibility</u>: May be issued only to registered parishioners who currently reside within our parish boundaries, who have been registered parishioners at least six months, are 16 yrs. and older, who have received all of their Sacraments of Initiation, and are actively practicing their 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

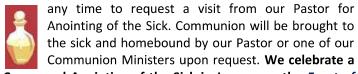
Certificate of Eligibility from their pastor. A Christian of another denomination may serve as a Christian Witness alongside a Catholic Godparent.

MARRIAGE: The Sacrament of Matrimony Mass may be celebrated no later than 1pm on Saturdays.



program approved by our Diocese.

 $\underline{\mbox{ANOINTING OF THE SICK}}.$ Please call the Parish Office at



Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the *Feast of St. John the Baptist.*

Mass Intentions Week of March 11th – March 17th, 2024

Monday: † Joseph Cegielski (Loving Wife)
Tuesday: Intentions of Chris Leahy (Family)
Wednesday: † Patricia Stangil (Cathy Leidtke)
Thursday: † Jerry Petritsch (Anita Colahan)

Friday: * Eileen Flynn (A Friend)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: * Vince Hill (Jim & Terry)

Sunday 8am: † Patricia Stangil (Mr. & Mrs. Charles Oxenford)

Sunday 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

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

March 3rd Envelopes \$5,837 * E-Giving \$2,438 THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



THE MSC SEMINARY APPEAL FOR INDIA WILL BE THE WEEKEND OF MARCH 23RD & 24TH.

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Mar. 10: Conquest/Challenge – School – 11:30am-2pm

Mon. Mar 11: Prayer Shawl – Marian Room – 7:00pm

Tue. Mar 12: 'THE CHOSEN' Study -St. Augustine Rm-7:00pm

Tue. Mar 12: 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

Today's readings point out the mercy of God. Our God whom we believe is a merciful God. His mercy is a gratuitous gift to us. Today we are called out to respond to his merciful call. If we respond to his merciful call and believe in his infinite mercy, He forgives all our wrongdoings. Without his mercy we cannot live in this world because he is the source of our lives. God gave us his only son because of love and mercy.

The Gospel tells us that one can have eternal life by believing in the Son. What does it mean to believe in Christ? How do we believe in the Son? Believing in the Son means to surrender oneself and to walk in the way of Christ. We need to be compassionate just as Jesus was. We need to be merciful like Jesus Christ. We need to be the voice of the voiceless. Help of the helpless. We need to love others as we love ourselves. Otherwise, our saying that I believe in Jesus Christ will be meaningless.

In our life very often, we forget the love and mercy of God and get driven by material things of this world. We long for name and fame. We are attracted by the riches of this world and while trying to have the riches of this world we forget the mercy of love of God. But today the readings remind us that we have eternal life only by living the life as Jesus has showed us to live.

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 guarreling 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

RIGGS JOSEPH MCNICHOL

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 Rm. We are blessed that Fr. Jomar is joining us once again to answer questions and provide his excellent insights! **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.**

PARISH SURVEY

Thank you to all who signed up for the Focus Groups. There will be a mandatory kick-off meeting on Wednesday Mar 20th at 7pm in the Marian Room. We will explain the next steps to address the identified items from the Parish Survey. For questions please contact Laura at 267-733-7802.



THIS WEEKEND! PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS PLEASE STOP BY!



This 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!

MARCH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



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

The **HCOM** hosts our parish socials on the 2nd full weekend each month as well as events like the Lenten Friday Soup Supper. You are invited to enjoy all the social events, but we need volunteers also. If you want to help, no sign ups are necessary! Just show up at any event a little early and you'll have a job to do! If you have an idea or suggestion, contact Mary at wmckmiller@verizon.net or Patti at pbkeyser128@gmail.com.



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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Visit our website www.stjohnsottsville.org and click on the above link. Follow the prompts to join our **e-giving program**. For more information please call the Parish Office.

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Greetings from across campus! The Regina Academy students were very busy showcasing their oratory skills during The Academy's annual Declamation contest. We are all so very proud of the students. The winners are off to the Regional finals at the Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa. Congratulations to the winners. MARY FAUERBACH in Oration, BESSIE FAUERBACH in Prose and RITA ELSNER in Poetry. The Academy is always open to parishioners to see what's going on with the Classical curriculum and the students. Please call to schedule your tour today.

Student Council Easter Plant sale is going on now. See the bulletin for order forms which are due by March 11th. Proceeds from the sale will go to purchase Easter flowers for the shut-ins of our parish community.

Regina Academy registration is now in full swing there are still openings in some of the classes. Please email the office for registration or visit the website at www. rasjb.org

BLESSINGS, TAMI KOERBER, HEAD OF SCHOOL



BLOOD DRIVE

The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist

Gym/Auditorium, 4040 Durham Road, Ottsville, PA 18942 Tuesday, April 2, 2024 - 1:00 p.m. to 6 p.m.

Please call 1-800 RED CROSS (1-800-733-2767) or visit RedCrossBlood.org and enter: rasjb to schedule an appointment.



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

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.

PRAYER is a priority in teaching our Catholic Faith. Our classes begin with Prayer each week. We pray the ACT OF LOVE throughout Lent.

ACT OF LOVE

O MY GOD, I LOVE THEE ABOVE ALL THINGS WITH MY WHOLE HEART AND SOUL, BECAUSE THOU ART ALL GOOD AND WORTHY OF ALL LOVE. I LOVE MY NEIGHBOR AS MYSELF FOR LOVE OF THEE. I FORGIVE ALL WHO HAVE INJURED ME, AND I ASK PARDON FOR ALL WHOM I HAVE INJURED.

The Gospels of Lent are very powerful and significant. The Third Sunday of Lent focused on water/cleansing. This year, the Gospel was the Cleansing of the Temple.

This Sunday is LAETARE SUNDAY, the middle week of Lent when the priest may wear ROSE vestments. We REJOICE because SALVATION is near.

The theme of the fourth week of Lent readings is LIGHT.

FOURTH SUNDAY OF LENT

"In the Old Testament, mercy usually identifies a complex Hebrew idea that describes God's special covenant love. God's attitude of love or attachment to the covenant partners includes aspects of loyalty, dependability, trustworthiness, and an eagerness to help when situations turn bad. Paul echoes this fierce fidelity by describing God's eagerness to rescue or save us when we were alienated by sin. God's desire to be in relationship with us keeps God alert to our cries for help and eager to deliver us from what separates us from God."

Pg. 110 Living with Christ, for praying and living the Eucharist

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

WE AT ST. JOHN THE BAPTIST HAVE PLANNED THE FOLLOWING AS PART OF THE EUCHARISTIC REVIVAL

- 1. Bible / Faith Study for Lent This Lent we will be reading "Jesus and the Jewish Roots of the Eucharist" by Brant Pitre. Please join Maxine Vogan as she leads us through discussions on one of the greatest mysteries of the Catholic faith: Jesus present in the Eucharist! We will meet Sundays starting Feb 18th at 9:15am. Sign up in the Narthex.
- 2. SJB Women's Retreat "Live the Mass" weekend is April 13th & 14th and will be hosted at the Czestochowa Shrine. Father Ray Diesbourg, MSC will be joining us for the retreat. Information & registration forms for the Retreat are in the Narthex. Space is limited. Please prayerfully consider signing up.

Blessings, The Evangelization Ministry

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

FINANCE COUNCIL

Father Lucas - Chairman
Mike Kirk - President/Moderator
Carolyn Marchese - Finance Manager – St. John the Baptist
Mary Kosmin - Secretary
Chris Hackley, Jim McHugh, Mary Miller,
Vince Morelli, Jerry Peters
Ted Fahy - Pastoral Council Representative

MARCH 10TH, 2024 – THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 16th & 17th, 2024

5 th	Sun	day	of I	Lent
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	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Laura Gumprecht Lisa Saxton	Patti Keyser	Gretchen Meyers Jacob Roney Joshua Roney	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Need 1 Volunteer	Marie Burke	Christine Wimpenny Need 2 Volunteers	Maggie Hooven Liz Katra
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Claire Froman Anne Luna	Tony Luna	Fatu Logaivau Elia Logaivau Olivia Luna	Needed



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 Sabath, 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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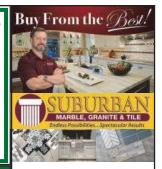
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