

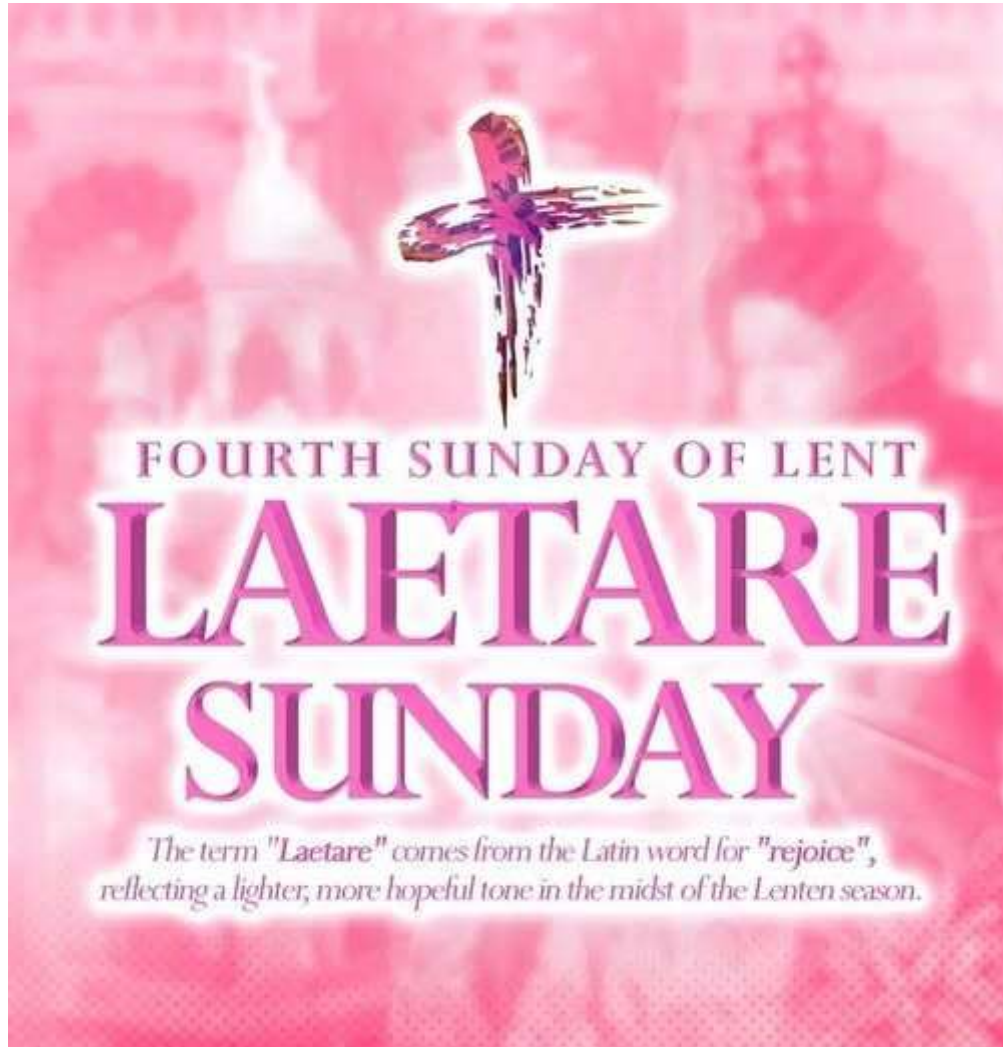
MARCH 15TH, 2026 – THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

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!

**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 March 16th – March 22nd, 2026

Monday: + Helene Bell (*Georgina Puente*)
Tuesday: + Dorothy Conley (*Ellen Przyuski*)
Wednesday: Intentions of Joan Black (*Maxine Vogan*)
Thursday: + Chris Leahy (*McHugh Family*)
Friday: + Helen Pepkowski (*Family*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 4:30pm: + Freeh-Johnson Family
(*David & Mary Grace Tillotson*)
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: + Lidia Tubiello (*Liz Torgerson*)

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 8th - Envelopes \$4,755 - E-Giving \$1,981

Thank you for your generosity!

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Sun. Mar 15: Lenten Bible Study – Marian Rm - 9:15pm
Mon. Mar 16: K of C Council Mtg – Marian Room - 7:30pm
Tue. Mar 17: Viewing of "The Chosen" – Marian Rm - 6pm
Tue. Mar 17: Choir Practice – Church - 7pm
Wed. Mar 18: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am

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 the middle of Lent, the Church rejoices. Laetare Sunday is not about rejoicing because everything is resolved but an occasion to rejoice because light has already entered our darkness.

The anointing of David reminds us that God's gaze is not like ours, God looks quiet deeply into the heart. David is chosen as King because of his receptivity. Lent, then, is about receptivity and allowing God to see us as we truly are and to reshape us from within.

Saint Paul deepens this call by telling us that Christian life is not cosmetic change; it is transformation. To live as "Children of Light" is to let truth, goodness, and compassion shape our daily choices, even when they remain unnoticed. In the Gospel, the man born blind is a mirror held before us. The man gradually comes to see not only with his eyes but with faith, while the religiously certain grow increasingly blind. The irony is painful and hopeful at once: blindness is healed not by knowledge or status, but by humility and trust.

Laetare Sunday invites us to pause and rejoice because Christ is already at work in us. Even our wounds, confusions, and unfinished conversions can become places where God's light breaks through. To see with God's eyes is to discover that grace often begins where we least expect it and that is reason enough to rejoice.

God of light, heal our blindness and guide us. May we see with your eyes, walk in your light and rejoice in your grace. Amen.

**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!



**Thank you to all
who helped at
the Cemetery
Spring Clean-up.
God Bless!**

THIS WEEKEND - PLEASE STOP BY! PARISH SOCIAL AFTER MASS



This 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 this weekend. Please visit us in the Narthex to get your order form and sign-up for program benefits!

Hope to see you all!

MARCH 15TH, 2026 – THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



Next week we will take up the Collection for the Church in Central and Eastern Europe. This collection supports the Church in more than 25 countries that are still

struggling to recover from former communist rule. It also aids communities throughout the region that are affected by the war in Ukraine. Funds support pastoral care, catechesis, renovations of church properties, and seminary formation. Your contribution restores the Church and builds the future in this region. Please prayerfully consider how you can support the collection next week. You can find more information at www.usccb.org/ccee.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



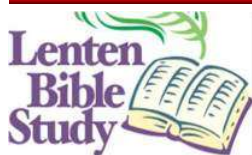
Would you please consider donating these items:

**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**



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



**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of March 15th
TEAM 4**

This is a once per month commitment.



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

Greetings from across campus,

What a fantastic week we've enjoyed at the Academy! The weather has been absolutely beautiful, and it has been a joy to see our students spending time outdoors during class, soaking in the sunshine and fresh air.

Every Wednesday, Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist hosts Walk-In Wednesdays, a special opportunity for anyone curious about our school to stop by, tour our classrooms, and experience firsthand how we nurture the hearts, minds, and souls of our young learners. If you or someone you know would like to see the Academy in action, we warmly welcome you to visit.

It is also an exciting season on campus as our students dive into practice for both CYO Track & Field and our spring musical, The Wizard of Oz. The energy in the building each morning is contagious. The children arrive with big smiles, eager to learn, to rehearse, and to take part in all the wonderful activities happening this spring.

Let's pray this beautiful weather continues as we move through these joyful weeks.

Wishing you a truly wonderful and blessed week!

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



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MARCH 15TH, 2026 – THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT



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.

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.

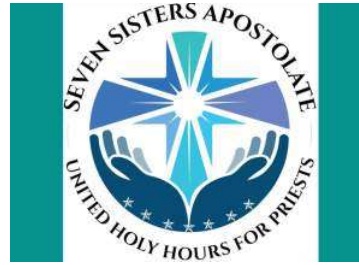


PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

Attention: Parents of **New Students** of any grade level should contact the Parish Office at:

610-847-5521 or prep@stjohnsottsville.org.

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



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 15TH, 2026 – THE 4TH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 21st & 22nd, 2026

The 5th Sunday of Lent

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 4:30PM	Samantha Campbell Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey	Needed	Martin & Rita Elsner 1 Volunteer Needed	Needed
SUNDAY 8AM	Jackie Butler Nina Carlineo Dave Slifer	Anne Slifer	Alaina Butler Christine Wimpenny 1 Volunteer Needed	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 10:30AM	Joan Beebe Patty Salva Ward Van Haute	Frank Balbirer	Melissa & Khloe Demusz Hezekiah Van Haute	Karen Parash Amleto Pucci

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, **Robert Ferrari**, Betty Fleck, Barney Fontenot, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Emilio J. Gonzales, Kathy Hancharik, **Dan Hauber**, Sylvia Holznagel, Doreen Illis, 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, 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

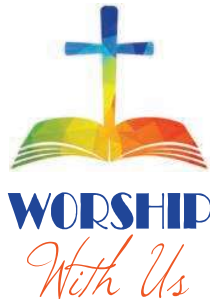
Heavenly Father, we lift up all college students to You today. We ask that You surround them with Your protection, keep them safe, guard their health and keep them strong and well. Protect their spiritual and emotional well-being as well. Keep them from negative influences and temptation, and ground 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 guide them. Amen.



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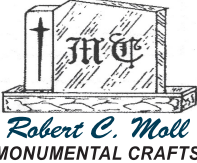
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