

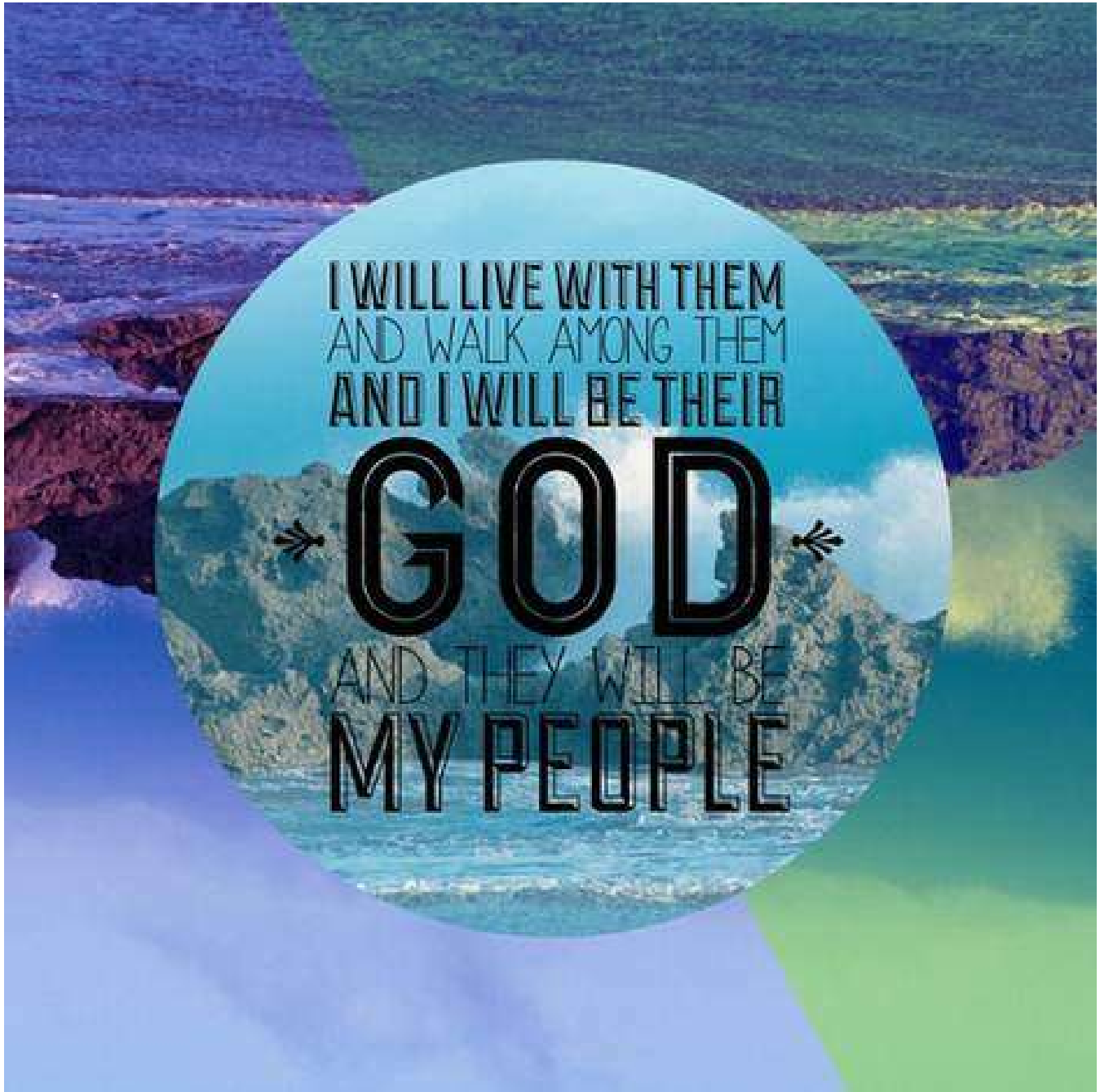
March 17th, 2024 – The 5th Sunday of Lent

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 18th – March 24th, 2024

Monday: † Marie Sirianni (*A Friend*)
Tuesday: † Uldine Kervick (*Dan & Mary Ann Hauber*)
Wednesday: † Lynn Von Mechow (*Jim & Joan Black*)
Thursday: † Marie Louzon (*Georgina Puente*)
Friday: † Elaine Jocelyn (*Jim & Joan Black*)

Palm Sunday Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 10:30am: Parishioners' Intentions

LENT PENANCE SERVICE

MONDAY, MARCH 18TH AT 6:30PM

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 10th Envelopes \$4,824 * E-Giving \$1,905
THANK YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!



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

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS

Mon. Mar 18: K of C – School Gym – 7:30pm
Tue. Mar 19: 'THE CHOSEN' Study – Marian Rm-7:00pm
Tue. Mar 19: 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

What does it mean to be God's people? The first reading talks about the people of God. God gives a new covenant as he had given to Israel. But this covenant is something different. He gives a covenant that He will be their God and all will be His people. As God created each one of us it is our responsibility to recognize that everything we have and everything we are belongs to the Almighty.

We are nothing without God. We have no authority over anything. We are only little stewards of the gifts that we have received from God. Now it is our way to use these gifts and live our lives, caring for everything and everyone as God cares for us. We human beings have to follow the law and not because we fear God but because we love God.

In the Gospel Jesus invites us to be His disciples. Following Jesus Christ in this world can be both hard and joyful. Since we are the sons and daughters of almighty we are called to follow him as good disciples. It is only possible when we are able to commit ourselves fully in serving and carrying His cross in humility.

This also can be done only when we have love for God. As God always wants that we become His people and more than that, his children. Jesus is inviting us to follow Him and to be true in all the gifts that we have received. We ought to make constant effort to be His children through our humble way of life.

Sincerely in Our Lord

REV. S. LUCAS MSC

Pastor, St. John the Baptist Parish

HOLY WEEK SCHEDULE

Holy Thursday March 28th, Mass of the Lord's Supper, 6PM

Good Friday March 29th, Veneration of the Cross, 3PM
Stations of the Cross follows immediately.

Easter Vigil Mass Saturday, March 30th, 8PM

Easter Sunday Masses March 31st, 8AM & 10:30AM

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.

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.



**NITTY GRITTY
GARDEN CLUB**

Clean-Up Day

All are welcome!

Saturday, March 23rd, 2024 at 10:00AM



Prayer for the Faithful by St. Patrick

*May the Strength of God guide us
May the Power of God preserve us
May the Wisdom of God instruct us
May the Hand of God protect us
May the Way of God direct us
May the Shield of God defend us
May the Angels of God guard us
Against the snares of the evil one.*

*May Christ be with us!
May Christ be before us!
May Christ be in us!
Christ be over all!*

This day, O Lord, and forevermore. Amen

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**Join the
Cleaning Team!**

**Wk. of March 17th
TEAM 5**

This is a once per month commitment.

“THE CHOSEN - SEASON 3” We are viewing “The Chosen–Season 3” on Tuesdays at 7pm in the Marian Room. We are blessed that Fr. Jomar is joining us once again to answer questions and provide his excellent insights! **SIGN UP IN THE NARTHEX.**

MARCH MINISTRY HIGHLIGHT



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

The Hospitality and Community Outreach Ministry would like to thank all who stayed for the **Socials after the Masses** last week. Especially a big shout out to those who came to help set up the refreshments and to clean up afterward.

Also, we thank those who contributed to the **Lenten Soup Supper** last Friday! Those who set up, cleaned up, and prepared delicious food are much appreciated! We have many unsung heroes in our parish! We look forward to continuing these services with your help and participation! **Remember, to share in this ministry, don't sign up! Just show up! There's a job for you!**

Our events are open to everyone! We hope that you will help to spread the word out into the community about these events and that you will **invite family and friends to join us!**

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Greetings from Across Campus!

I hope you are doing well. I have some exciting news to share with you about the Regina Academy. Our Regionwide Regina Academies declamation contest at Our Lady of Czestochowa event was a great success, and I am thrilled to announce that **Mary Fauerbach**, one of our 7th graders, has won first place in the overall oration of Mother Angelica's speech on Life. **Bessie Fauerbach**, 5th grade took 3rd place in Prose with an excerpt from "In Search of a Homeland: The Story of Aeneid" by Penelope Lively, and **Rita Elsner** took 3rd place in Poetry with "The Children's Hour" by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow. We are all proud of their achievement!

If you ordered plants from the Academy's plant sale, you can collect your flowers on Monday, March 18th, between 1-4 PM at the school. Please make sure to arrive on time to pick up your order. If you have any questions, feel free to call us at 610-847-5523.

Enrollment is now open! Please visit our website to learn more about our school or to schedule a tour. You can also send us an email at tkoerber@rasjb.org for further information.

The Regina Academy Student Council will be hosting the Lenten Soup Supper on Friday, March 22nd at 5:00pm in the school Cafeteria.

HAVE A BLESSED WEEK.

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.



The 40 Days for Life prayer vigil is underway. The date assigned to St. John the Baptist and St. Lawrence parishes is March 22nd. It will take place outside the "Planned Parenthood" abortion site in Warminster. The vigil is from 7:00 AM to 7:00 PM. The hours from 2:00 PM to 7:00 PM are not yet completely covered.

It has been proven that a mother is less likely to follow through with her abortion if people are praying for her and her child at the site.

If you need further information, please contact Kevin Murphy at km.nasius1@gmail.com.

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.

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

Wedding Anniversary Mass

Saturday May 4, 2024-Cathedral Basilica 5 PM

The annual Wedding Anniversary mass is celebrated with couples in the Archdiocese of Philadelphia who have been married 1-5 years, 25 years, and 50 years. We are observing the mass on May 4, 2024 this year. You can RSVP through the link provided here: <https://form.jotform.com/230443950527152>



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

MARCH 17TH, 2024 – THE 5TH SUNDAY OF LENT

March 23rd & 24th, 2024

Palm Sunday

| | Communion Minister | Lector | Altar Server | Music Ministry |
|---------------------------|----------------------------------|---|--|-----------------------------|
| SATURDAY 5PM | Dorothy Cegielski Peg Glancey | Need 2 Volunteers | Julia Byers Alyssa Byers Amalia Crews Siobhan Crews | Anita Colahan Sue Rogers |
| SUNDAY 8AM | Jim McHugh Bea Romaszewski | Anita Colahan Megan Gilbert | Alaina Butler Alexander Nice Justin Nice | Laura Fleck Karen Parash |
| SUNDAY 10:30AM | Jim Black Joan Black | Ward Van Haute Need 1 Volunteer | Olivia Luna Brady Mattle Christine Wimpenny | Echoes of Christ |



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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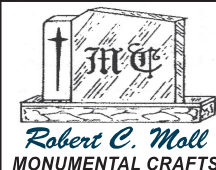
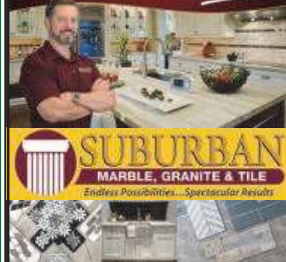

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