

SEPTEMBER 7TH, 2025 – 23RD SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

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



*“Whosoever does not bear
his own cross, and come
after Me, cannot be
My disciple.”
Luke 14:27*

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 of 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: 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 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 September 8th – September 14th, 2025

Monday: Intentions of Anita Colahan (*A Friend*)
Tuesday: † Maryanne Comly (*Harold Rick*)
Wednesday: † Mark & Betty Koch (*All Your Children*)
Thursday: † Joe Cegielski (*Dorothy & Bonnie*)
Friday: † Marie Louzon (*Georgina Puente*)

Weekend Masses

Saturday 5pm: Parishioners' Intentions
Sunday 8am: Intentions of Laura Fleck (*A Friend*)
Sunday 10:30am: † Melissa Sacco (*The Bucci Family*)

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
August 31st - Envelopes \$5,429 * E-Giving \$1,693

WEEKLY MINISTRY MEETINGS
Mon. Sep 08: Prayer Shawl - Marian Rm - 6:30pm
Wed. Sep 10: Flame of Love - Chapel - 8am
Wed. Sep 10: Prayers of Petition* - via Zoom - 6:30pm
* EMAIL LAURA AT sibevangel@stjohnsottsville.org TO JOIN IN PRAYER, OR TO SUBMIT PRAYER REQUESTS.
Thu. Sep 11: Garden Club – Work Session – 6-8pm

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!

September Saint Highlight
The Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary
is celebrated each year on September 8th. This day marks the birth of Mary, who is honored as the mother of Jesus Christ. It is an important day for Catholics around the world. Many people use this day to reflect on Mary's special role in the life of Jesus.

Mary's birth is seen as a key moment in Christian history. Catholics believe that she was born without original sin, which made her the perfect choice to become the mother of Jesus. Because of this belief, the Church celebrates her birth with great respect. The Feast is a chance to remember how important Mary is to the story of Jesus.

For many Catholics, this feast day is a time to pray and think about the meaning of Mary's life. It is also a time to honor her through acts of kindness and reflection. The Feast of The Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary offers a moment each year to focus on Mary's role in the Christian faith.



From Your Pastor

Taking up our own cross does not mean seeking out suffering. Jesus did not seek out his cross; he took on himself, in loving obedience to the Father, what men put on his shoulders, and with his obedient love, he transformed it from an instrument of torture into a sign of redemption and glory. Jesus did not come to make human crosses heavier, but rather to give them meaning. It has been rightly said that “whoever looks for Jesus without the cross will find the cross without Jesus,” that is, he will certainly find the cross but not the strength to carry it.

Though “bearing a cross” is often equated with welcoming chronic illness, painful physical conditions, or trying family relationships, it also includes what we do voluntarily, as a consequence of our commitment to Jesus Christ. Further, it is the spirit in which we freely and deliberately accept and endure the pain, the difficulties, and even the ridicule involved with these choices, that transforms them into real cross-bearing.

We need to be prepared to suffer out of love for Jesus. For the early Christians, however, cross-bearing had a far more literal meaning. Just as Jesus went to the cross, some of his followers would also taste death for their devotion to the Master. Only if the disciple is firmly committed to Christ will he be able to spend his life in sacrificial service for others.

We observe this integrity in Christian doctors, medical students, and pharmacists who refuse to take part, in any way, in abortions, even if they might suffer professionally; in people who stick up for Christ and his teachings (even when they suffer derision as a result), at school, work, or in their families; in those who sacrifice money and time to care for others and for the mission of the Church. *“Discipleship not only means to follow the Master with our ‘cross.’ It also means to reveal the crucified Christ to others. In other words, through our struggles and in consequence of Faith, Christ is present to us and to those who see us.”*

**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.



SJB Parish Picnic Sunday, September 14th Noon – 3 pm

Join us for food, fun, music, games and prizes for the kids in the school gym and, weather permitting, in the field behind the church.

Thank you to the Leahy Family for a sponsoring for this year's hamburgers and hotdogs for the picnic!

We are still looking for volunteers to help set up, cook and clean up. Please consider helping. Contact Mary at 215-896-4034 or wmckmiller@verizon.net.

If your last name begins with:

- **A-E** bring dessert
- **F-J** bring non-alcoholic drinks and ice
- **K-O** bring a side dish
- **P-S** bring chips, pretzels, etc.
- **T-Z** bring one of the following: pickles, olives, relish, onions, lettuce, tomato

Looking forward to seeing you all there!

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, September 13th & 14th. Please visit us in the Narthex to get your order form and sign-up for program benefits!

COMMUNITY OUTREACH

“Back to School Days” can be
“**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS DAYS**”

SAY or **DO SOMETHING NICE** for a teacher, a coach, the new kid, a neighbor, a new neighbor, the cashier, the mail person, the elderly, the sick, the lonely, etc.

- **BE JESUS to others!!**
- **SEE JESUS in others!**
- **SMILE!!**
- **Radiate JOY!!**
- **Spread PEACE!!**
- **BE KIND!!!**

Together we can change the world!

SJB NITTY GRITTY GARDEN CLUB



You're Invited!

NGGC would like to invite you to our Fall “**Make it and Take it**” event on September 25th at 6:30. We will be making a garden stake, jack-o'-lantern or welcome sign. The cost is \$15. All materials are provided and refreshments also. Please sign up at our garden table located in the back of the church by 9/21.



Love. Grow. Serve.

Our Mission Statement:

Honoring God through the gifts HE has given us, by beautifying the campus, maintaining and expanding our gardens, and educating members.

Meetings are held in the Narthex meeting rooms on the 4th Thursday of each month from 6:00 PM – 8:00 PM

Any questions/concerns please feel free to contact: Janice Meiser at 215-534-0064 *and/or* Janice Bebb at 215-266-1508 or creationsbyjanice@comcast.net.

SJB Nitty Gritty Garden Club Vision:

Plan, raise funds for, and beautify the grounds of the church campus.

We need many seeds to keep our gardens flourishing.

Evangelization Ministry



This year **Abbeyfest** is at the Shrine in Doylestown on Saturday, September 20th. Come for a great day of music, Mass and Adoration. See the flyer in the narthex for details. Ticket prices dramatically reduced for groups of 15 or more, so sign up in the narthex for the reduced rate.

The Harrisburg **March for Life** is Monday, Sept 22nd. There is a sign up in the narthex for the bus out of St. Robert Bellarmine in Warrington. Cost is \$30 for adults. Teens and under ride free. **See flyer in the narthex for other available buses.**



From August to November, SJB will be running a raffle through the **RaiseRight** program for a chance to win a \$250 Giant gift card! For each \$100 purchased (in a single transaction) you will receive one ticket to be entered in the raffle. Gift cards can be purchased after the Masses on the weekend when there is a Parish Social, or through the Parish Office during the week. The raffle will be drawn and the winner announced at the November Social after 10:30 Mass.

Questions? Contact Laura: sjbevangel@stjohnsottsville.org

Calling All Walkers!

There are several walking/running events this Fall that support important charities around the area. Check them out!

Saturday, Sept 27th: Thinkhope Run. 5K run or 1K walk. Peace Valley Park, Sailor's Point parking lot. Sign up at thinkhope.org/events

Saturday, Oct 4th: 5K run and walk supporting Crossroads Pregnancy Care. Location: The Park at 4th, Quakertown
Sign up at:

<https://runsignup.com/Race/PA/Quakertown/5KRunandWalkforLife>

Saturday, Oct 4th: Warminster Run for Life supports **A Baby's Breath**. Come Run, Walk or Wheel at Tyler State Park Rt. 332 (Richboro-Newtown Road) at No. 1 Lane Trail Richboro, PA 18954 (Earth Center for the Arts Entrance). <https://ababysbreath.org/warminster/warminster-run-for-life/>

Saturday, Nov 8th: Walking with Moms in Need. 1- and 2-mile walk (or run) at Anglers Pier, Peace Valley Park. Supports Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition. More info is coming soon!

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS



Our Father Stommel Council #4545 meets every 3rd Monday at 7:30pm.

For information or to join, Contact Grand Knight Mark Janik or email KofC4545@aol.com



PARISH RELIGIOUS EDUCATION

2025 – 2026 Registration is Open for PREP Classes Begin Monday, September 15th, 2025 Class time: 6:15 – 7:30pm Monday in the school

Registration Forms for Returning Students for 2025-26 have been mailed. Parents of New Students of any grade level for 2025-26 should contact the Parish Office: prep@stjohnsottsville.org OR 610-847-5521.

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 at prep@stjohnsottsville.org by September 30th, 2025



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.



Pastoral Council is reaching out to our parishioners to see if there is interest in bringing back

The Little Lambs Club.

The Little Lambs Club is a way to introduce the Gospel message and Eucharistic celebration at the children's own level. We are seeking two active registered parishioners to take on this leadership role for both Sunday Mass at 8AM & 10:30AM.

There are two signup sheets in the Narthex. One is for anyone interested in having their children enrolled. The other signup sheet is for anyone willing to volunteer for instruction of the children.

All adult volunteers must obtain Archdiocesan clearances prior to beginning service and be willing to complete trainings. Call the parish office for details on applying for clearances and training, and/or visit the Office for Child Youth Protection website: childyouthprotection.org

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER

ARE YOU LOOKING FOR MORE PRAYER IN YOUR LIFE? JOIN US AT FATIMA HOUSE



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

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

Join the Cleaning Team! Wk. of September 7th TEAM 2 This is a once per month commitment.

Dear Friends of The Lord's Pantry-



Now that September is upon us, it seems that we can almost smell Fall in the air! Would you please consider donating these baking supplies.

Sugar - Cake Mixes - Brownie Mixes - Pie Filling

You will benefit our struggling families affected by the increased prices of staples and bring happiness and comfort to them and delicious smells to their kitchens! 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

The Knights of Columbus Council 4545



Join us for a night of fun. Doors open at 5:00 pm.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 8th

Cost of admission ticket of \$5.00 includes coffee & dessert.

Come test your luck, it only costs a penny per chance!

No one under 13 years of age admitted

	Communion Minister	Lector	Altar Server	Music Ministry
SATURDAY 5PM	Adam Crews Lynn & Gianna Gammello	Christine Crews	Siobhan & Amalia Crews Christine Wimpenny	Katie Minster Karen Parash
SUNDAY 8AM	Nina Carlineo Nancy Kaczinski Jim McHugh	Marie Burke	Blake & Max Nowicki 1 Volunteer Needed	Ordinary Time
SUNDAY 10:30AM Regina Academy Mass	Joan Beebe Leona Russell Patty Salva	Patti Keyser	3 Regina Academy Volunteers to be determined	Echoes of Christ



PLEASE PRAY FOR...



OUR SICK:

Jessie Alfaro, Baby Conner & his Parents, Roger Bahnck Sr., John Becker, Wanda Bickel, Loretta Bodisch, Lillian Buckley, Brent Camillier, Katie Carty, Steve & Patty Combs, Maria D'Angelo, Barbara Docs, Marvin & Arlene Eichlin, Carol Engel, Christie Feikel, Joe Fekete, Betty Fleck, Ron Freeland, Gabriella Froehlich, Jean Furmaniak, Marie & Rosalyn Giardullo, Peg Glancey, Kathy Hancharik, Sylvia Holznagel, Sheila Haney Kaisen, John Klinges, Mark Leidtke, Nate Leidtke, Ray Malachowski, Kimberly Markulec, Rosanne McCarty, Xavier McDonald, Bridget McHugh, Joyce Melchiorre, Michael Moreni, Kay Mule, Helene Nastro, Dennis O'Connell, Jeff Olimpo, Robert Parash, Erin Rogers Pickering, Janet Reidler, Thomas Rimmer, Fr. Tony Ripp, MSC, 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, Ed Wismer, Judy Woodroffe

If you would like a prayer shawl for yourself or for someone you know, please call the Parish Office at 610-847-5521 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



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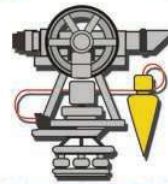
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