"NO SERVANT CAN SERVE TWO MASTERS. HE WILL EITHER HATE ONE AND LOVE THE OTHER, OR BE DEVOTED TO ONE AND DESPISE THE OTHER. YOU CANNOT SERVE GOD AND MAMMON."

~ Luke 16:13
SEPTEMBER 18, 2016 – TWENTY-FIFTH SUNDAY IN ORDINARY TIME

PARISH STAFF
Pastor: Rev. Simione Volavola, M.S.C.
Parochial Vicar: Rev. Tony Ripp, M.S.C.
Deacon: Ernest D’Angelo
Dir. of Religious Education: Donna Sciacca
Parish Secretary: Rebecca Tirpok

PARISH SPIRITUALITY
Saturday Vigil Mass: 5:00pm
Sunday: 8:00am & 10:30am
Mon - Thurs: 8:35am / Friday 9:00am
Holy Days: 9:00am & 7:30pm

CONFESSON
Saturdays 4:15pm - 4:45pm or anytime by appointment.

REGISTER: Please register when you move into the parish. This is an opportunity to become acquainted with our faith community and to experience the joy of being part of the Church. Only registered parishioners, in good standing, can receive a Certificate of Eligibility to act as a Godparent or sponsor.

BAPTISMS: The Sacrament of Baptism is administered on the fourth Sunday of every month at 11:30 a.m. Parents are encouraged to invite family members to the 10:30 Mass as the Sacrament of Baptism takes place immediately following the Mass. Parents and Godparents meet for an enrichment class prior to the Baptism. You will need to call the Parish Office to register for this class. A Godparent must be a committed, practicing Catholic, and if from another parish, must have a certificate of eligibility from his/her pastor. This certificate should be brought to the enrichment class. A Christian of other denominations may serve as a Godparent along with a practicing Catholic.

MARRIAGE: Couples planning marriage are expected to attend Pre-Cana Conferences and to meet with the parish priest several times leading up to the marriage. The period of preparation time required is six months unless approved otherwise by our Pastor.

ANOINTING OF THE SICK: Please call the rectory at any time for the Sacrament of the Sick. Also the Holy Eucharist will be brought to the sick and shut-ins upon request to the Parish Office. We celebrate a Communal Anointing of the Sick in June, near the Feast of St. John the Baptist.

Masses for the Week of Sept. 19 - 25, 2016
Morning Prayer in St. Joseph Chapel, Mon – Fri at 8:15am
Monday, Sept. 19
8:35am (chapel) Heath Bechtel (Mike & Dayle Witaneck)
Tuesday, Sept. 20
8:35am (chapel) Intentions of Jim Black (Elaine Jocelyn)
Wednesday, Sept. 21
8:35am (chapel) Maria Meier (Ron Meier)
Thursday, Sept. 22
8:35am (chapel) Joe Walsh (Sue & Tom Rogers)
Friday, Sept. 23 (School Mass)
9:00am (church) Diane Diamm (Sclafani Family)
Saturday, Sept. 24
5:00pm (church) Petie Schultz (Nanny & Poppy)
Sunday, Sept. 25 – Baptisms immediately following Mass
8:00am (church) Parishioners’ Intentions
10:30am (church) Puleo Family (Bob & Jackie Callanan)

Meetings for the week of Sept. 19 - 25, 2016
Tues. Sept. 20: Gospel Reflection, 9:15am – Marian Room
Wed. Sept. 21: Altar Society, 1pm – Marian Room
Sat. Sept. 24: Men of Faith, 8am – Marian Room

Weekly Mass Collection
September 11, 2016
$5,770.00
Parish Giving $157.94
Thank you for your generosity!

SJB Cleaning Team for the week of Sept. 12th is Team # 4:
Karen Parash, Joyce Vinceguerra, Jean Keller, Chris Zdanowicz, Dot Cegielski, Diane Watson
Your parish Thanks You!

The READINGS for our Masses this weekend may be found in:
Section 1002

Altar Flowers donated by
John Becker
in loving memory
of his dear wife
INEZ BECKER
Gospel Reflections

A Letter from Our Pastor, Father Simi

Dear brothers and sisters,

“I tell you, make friends for yourselves with dishonest wealth, so that when it fails, you will be welcomed into eternal dwellings.”

(Luke 16:9)

The father in the parable of the prodigal son from last Sunday’s gospel very warmly welcomes back the son who squandered the inheritance he received from the father whom he thought should be dead already.

This very famous parable powerfully portrays just how easily we presume our heavenly Father dead and without any responsibility to Him, we think we can do with all our worldly possessions, all our family members, all our employees, all our customers, the poor, even our own bodies, our own lives) just however we please.

In today’s gospel, Jesus teaches us with another parable that whether we regard the Father alive or dead in our lives here on earth, we will still have to make an accounting for all the ‘inheritance’ we received from Him.

Pretending or willing that we do not have a Father God does not make Him disappear. We are sons and daughter created by Him. It is not we who create the Father, or uncreated Him. He will always be there. We will always be His children.

As His children, we have been blessed with many possessions. He told us this in the parable of the prodigal son, in the words He spoke to the elder son: “My son, you are here with me always; everything I have is yours.” (Luke 15:31)

In today’s parable, He teaches us that possessions also rightly belong to the Father only as its creator, its source, its author. He shares these earthly creations with us His children. We are stewards of these earthly wealth; not owners but stewards.

We, as stewards will always be answerable to the true owner: God our Father. Like the steward in the parable, we work for Him and manage these earthly goods for Him and will ultimately have to account to Him for how we have managed these gifts.

Like the steward also in the parable, we squander the earthly wealth we are stewards of. What the Owner Father will always demand is an accounting. We owe it to Him. They are rightfully His wealth in the first place.

Notice though that while He does ask us for an accounting of wealth we have squandered, He does not throw us in ‘jail’ for it but gives us an opportunity to repent and make amends. For indeed we have and continue to misuse all the wealth He has shared with us with nothing to show for it.

What does He want in return for all the wealth we are stewards of? Souls. He wants His children back. He wants his prodigal children back with Him in our eternal dwellings with Him in heaven. He wants all of His steward children to be reconciled with Him again. He just wants His children back.

Each and every one of us shares in the Father’s possessions, although in varying degrees and varying kinds of wealth. They belong to the Father only and we are blessed with the responsibility of sharing it for the salvation of souls to Him.

Today we are encouraged to reflect on just how blessed we are to share in the Father’s immense wealth here on earth.

Today we are called to use that wealth for the salvation of souls.

How are you spending the Father’s wealth?
How many souls are being reconciled to God their Father through your stewardship?

Fr. Simi

FATIMA HOUSE RETREAT CENTER
Bedminster, PA

Join us in Praying for Vocations & World Peace

Weekly Prayers

Mondays at 7pm in Our Lady’s Chapel:
Adoration, Liturgy of the Hours, Rosary & Divine Mercy Chaplet

Wednesdays at 9:30am in Our Lady’s Chapel:
Adoration, Liturgy of the Hour, Rosary, Divine Mercy Chaplet

Every 3rd Sunday, 12pm-1pm in Our Lady’s Chapel:
Adoration, Prayers for vocations to the Priesthood

For information or directions, contact Joan Black at 215-795-2947
Dear Parents,

Welcome Back PREP families! As we look toward a new school year, we do so with much joy and gladness. We are eager to continue our work with the children as they travel further along the road to Emmaus as they walk with Jesus.

I invite you, the parents, their first catechists, to join us. Consider a visit to your child’s class, get to know your child’s teacher, join us for our monthly PREP Mass, Advent & Lenten Penance services. Your participation is encouragement for your child. Please be sure to check your child’s folder each week for important information and communications from their teacher.

May God bless the children and our Catechists,
Donna Sciacca, DRE

Jesus said, “Let the little children come to me, and do not hinder them, for the kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these.” ~ Matthew 19:14

RA@SJB Parents Guild Uniform Store
The Parents Guild will be collecting gently used RA@SJB uniforms in order to start a Uniform Store. Please consider donating any new or gently used items that your child has out grown over the year. A drop box is located inside the main doors of the school for donations. We will inventory the items as they arrive and have them available for purchase at various events throughout the year. Pricing will depend on the item and condition. As our inventory grows, email requests will be accepted as well. If you have any questions, or would like additional information, please contact Viktoria O’Donnell at vodonnell@live.com or 215-766-4881

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The Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist will receive 0.5% of the purchase price on every item you buy! Shopping online is convenient, easy and quick. Go to www.smileamazon.com from your computer or mobile device. You will be asked to “select a charitable organization, scroll down the list and click on THE REGINA ACADEMY at St. John the Baptist. It’s that simple! You can even use your existing Amazon.com account to access Amazon Smile. No additional cost to you. Questions or need help, call 610-960-7062 and details will be emailed to you.

School Headmaster: Mr. Michael J. Patterson
Dir. of Institutional Advancement: Geoff Meyer
Ph: 610-847-5523 www.sjbottsville.org
DO YOU HAVE QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CATHOLIC FAITH

St. John the Baptist R.C. Parish offers opportunities for people seeking more information about following Jesus and becoming a member of the Catholic Church. Perhaps you are already a baptized Christian but would like to become a Catholic, or you are already a baptized Catholic and would like to receive the Sacraments of Confirmation and First Holy Eucharist. There are many people like yourself inquiring and we are ready to answer your questions. Please contact the Parish Office for more information.

The 2016 Pro-Life Summer Raffle

2,500 tickets @ $25 ea. 
10 Prizes

Total giveaway of $7,500!
The drawing for this Raffle occurs on Saturday, September 24, 2016 and the proceeds benefit the Pro-Life Legal Fund for Southeast Pennsylvania.

Tickets sold in the Narthex after ALL Masses.

A DAY WITH OUR LADY OF FATIMA
September 29 – October 2, 2016

St. John the Baptist Church welcomes the United Nations International Pilgrim Virgin Statue of Our Lady of Fatima.
This statue is one of four blessed by Pope Pius XII on May 13, 1947.
The very day the statue left Fatima, miracles occurred.
Our world could benefit greatly by your prayers to Our Lord through Mary’s intercession.

A presentation of the Pilgrim Statue along with relics of Blessed Jacinta and Francisco Marto will be at our Masses on:
Friday - 9am Sept. 29th, Saturday - 5pm Mass Oct. 1st and Sunday - 8am & 10:30am Masses on Oct. 2nd.

The statue will also be present on First Saturday, Oct. 1st at Fatima Retreat House, Bedminster. Beginning at 10am with the praying of the Rosary, followed by Confession and Mass.

Please join us. Learn Our Lady’s Peace Plan from Heaven. Join us as our parish comes together to pray the Rosary following the 9am Mass on Friday (9/29); 4:30pm on Saturday (10/1) and 7:30am on Sunday (10/2).

Visit our new web site www.thefatimastatue.org
Please remember in your prayers our parishioners who are sick, homebound, in the hospital, under hospice or residential care.


**MINISTRY SCHEDULE**

**Sept. 24 & 25, 2016 - 26th Sunday in Ordinary Time**

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<th>Extraordinary Minister</th>
<th>Lector</th>
<th>Altar Server</th>
<th>Music</th>
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<td><strong>Saturday</strong></td>
<td><strong>8:00am</strong></td>
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<td>Joan Black</td>
<td>Nancy Kaczinski</td>
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<td>Ordinary Time</td>
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