

# Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

Reverend Gavin W. Muir, Pastor  
Reverend Robert H. Breen, Pastor Emeritus

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## Mass Schedule

Saturday Evenings at 5:00 p.m.  
Sunday Morning at 8:00 & 10:00 a.m.  
Holy Days at 9:00 a.m. & 7:30 p.m.  
Mon., Tues., Thurs., & Sat. at 9:00 a.m.  
Wed., at 7:30 p.m. & Fri. at 6:30 p.m.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday evenings from 6-7 p.m.

## Confessions

Saturday afternoon at 4:30 p.m.  
Wednesday evening at 7:10 p.m.

## St. Lawrence Men's Club

Meets on the second Monday at 7:00 p.m.

## Altar & Rosary Society

Meets on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 p.m.

## Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes

Meets First Saturday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

## Parish Registration

We welcome all new members to our Parish family. Please register when you move into the parish. Please notify us if you are moving.

## Weddings

Couples are asked to contact the Rectory and make arrangements at least six months prior to their intended wedding date. They are required to attend Pre-Cana sessions.

## Catholic Elementary School

Children may attend Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist School, Ottsville; for further information call: 610-847-5523.

## Parish CCD Classes

Parish children attending public or private school, may receive Catholic Faith instructions on Sunday at 9:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall from October to May. Registration is published in the Parish Bulletin.

## Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9:30 a.m. to Noon

## December 18, 2016 Fourth Sunday of Advent

### SUMMONED BY GOD

As Christmas draws near, Advent's scriptures lure us into a world of dreams, signs, wonders, and the miracle of the virgin birth. Too often we allow the great stories of our faith, the ones that are most familiar, simply to wash over us. Today's Gospel account of the events leading up to the birth of the Lord reads like a present-day soap opera. Yet Joseph's courage, even in the midst of what must have been an incredibly confusing time, provides a model for us. Each week, we are summoned by God to embrace the way of goodness and truth through the proclamation of God's holy word. Like Joseph, we are called to do as the Lord commands us. As we stand at the threshold of Christmas, let us have the courage to be open to whatever it is that the Lord will require of us as we celebrate the miracle of Bethlehem.

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#### Saturday - December 17th

##### Confessions: 4:30 PM

5 PM: Special Intentions of Marie Roesser (Patton Family)

#### Sunday - Dec 18th - Fourth Sunday of Advent

8AM: Living & Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

10AM: Butch & Helen Kardos (Rose Pavlica Myers)

#### Monday - Dec 19th - Late Advent Weekday

##### Weekday:

9AM:

#### Tuesday - Dec 20th - Late Advent Weekday

##### Weekday:

9AM: Joseph & Anna Pavlica (Rose Pavlica Myers)

#### Wednesday - Dec 21st - Late Advent Weekday

##### Weekday:

*Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament - 6-7:00 PM*

*Confessions 7:00 PM Last Time Before Christmas*

7:30PM: Intentions of Cathy Jones (Lay Carmelite Community)

#### Thursday - Dec 22nd - Late Advent Weekday

##### Weekday:

9AM:

#### Friday - Dec 23rd - Late Advent Weekday

##### Weekday:

6:30PM: John Pavlica (Wife Irene & Janet Achuff)

#### Saturday - Dec 24th - Late Advent Weekday

Weekday: 9:00AM

COLLECTIONS: December 11, Parish @ \$2666, Immaculate Conception @ \$315, Christmas Flowers @ \$60, Religious Retirement Fund @ \$5. Thank you.

### Christmas Week Schedule

Wednesday, Dec 21, Confessions begin @ 7:00 PM.  
This is last time before Christmas. Mass @ 7:30 PM

#### Saturday, Dec 24, Christmas Eve - 4:00PM

Incense Not used; No Confessions; Living & Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

#### Saturday Dec 24, Christmas Eve - 6:00PM

Incense IS used; No Confessions, Living & Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

#### Sunday Dec 25, Christmas Day - 9:00AM

### TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

By now, the first Christmas carols are heard in the home, but usually not yet in church. What is a "carol" anyway? Originally, a carol was any kind of communal song sung at a festival such as a harvest. By the thirteenth century or so, carols were associated with household celebrations. "Carol" comes from the Old French *carula*, meaning a circular dance. Carols weren't for church, since the language of liturgy was Latin and the carols were in the common language. Their characteristic sound comes from medieval chord patterns, and they often have strong refrains for everyone to sing. Even in the churches of the Reformation, carols didn't make it into church services until the 1870s or so, since there was a preference for psalms. Anglicans resisted popular carols; most of our beloved carols came via the Methodists, an offshoot of the Church of England. The Catholic Church generally didn't admit carols to liturgy either, but we didn't make laws against them.

We are told that the beloved carol "Silent Night" comes from Catholic Austria and a harried parish music director. Joseph Mohr, the priest of St. Nicholas in Oberndorf, had written the words in 1816, but offered them to his music director, Franz Gruber, when the church's organ broke. Mohr asked him to write a melody that could be played on guitar as a prelude to Mass. Gruber finished the tune just hours before midnight Mass in 1818. The people were shocked to hear a guitar in church, but were charmed by the sweet lullaby. The church was swept away by a flood in the 1990s and the village later relocated, but the townspeople have set up the "Silent Night Memorial Chapel" at the site. Today the carol is in print in some three hundred languages. How wonderful that the pipe organ broke on that night!

—Rev. James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co

### GETTING EVEN

The only ones you should try to get even with are those who have helped you.

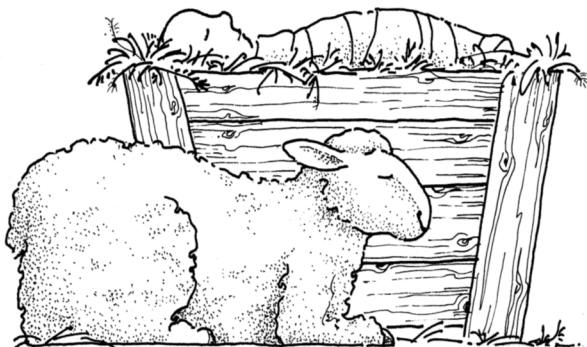
—Anonymous

**CPR/AED Training Class** is scheduled for Sunday, January 29th following the 10AM Mass. This service is provided free of charge and an opportunity for anyone to learn these most valuable life saving procedures. This is a convenient opportunity to participate in something that you may have interest in but have been putting off for years. Now is the time to act. You will be glad you did:>

**Church Decorations will take place on Sunday, December 18, beginning after the 10AM Mass and continue after the return of folks who attend the Fire House breakfast:> Stop in to help or watch the helpers perform their Christmas magic.**

**Altar Rosary Christmas Dinner** save the date, January 5th at the Villa Richard starting @ 6:00PM. All women of our Parish welcome. Sign sheet and entrée choice details in vestibule. Treat yourself to a pleasant evening with women of our Parish at this annual event.

**Nativity Stable:** The St. Lawrence Men's Club has approved funds for the construction of a new Nativity Stable to be utilized for Christmas 2017. We seek someone who has the ability and is willing to donate their time & talent to fabricate same. All materials for this initiative will be funded by the Men's Club with no expense to you. Interested?? Contact Joe Affuso @ 610-258-1621



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**New Parishioners –WELCOME!!** No need to feel shy. We are happy you are here. To register see an usher, or just fill out form in vestibule of church, or call 610-749-2684 or email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net) We are ready to welcome you.



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**ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:**

Lectors for:

12/24 4 PM: Ells Cheeseman  
6 PM: Bernie Boylan

12/25 9 AM: Dolores Patton

Altar Servers for:

12/24 4 PM: Francis Reinhart, Peter Shea, Eric Senior  
6 PM: Andrew Benner, Anthony DeArmas

12/25 9 AM: Conor, Darafin, Shane Twomey

Extraordinary Ministers:

12/24 4 PM: Robert & Margaret Somogyi, Bernie Boylan  
6 PM: Russell Benner, Ann Funkhouser

12/25 9 AM: Mark Culichia, Alvin LaBar, OFS

**Please Pray for Our Sick and housebound, deceased members, and for an end to abortion and a respect for all life!** Joan McArdle, Tim McHenry, Molly Worner, Kelly Aubrey & Family, Lorraine Wallace, Liz Casterline, Julie Petry, Lucy Herman, John Gibson, Steve Ombalski, Raymond Meehan, Mary Grube Fritchman, Joan Sheeran, Jay Johnson, Irene Peiffer, Lori Liskowacki, Cynthia Diaz, special intention, Susan Wires, David Grasso, Adrian Steinberg, Joseph Jones, Mary Jane Bernat, Gus Trincheria, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Daniel Steinberg, Jack Latorre, Joann Thaler, Amy Hessenthaler, Calvin, Wilson & Frank Ryan, Eve Zelle, Roger & MaryAnn Brahler, Gavin (age 3), Bill Miller, Caitlin, Steven Fusco, Charles More, Jeff & Bonnie, Baby Matthew Royer, baby Ely, Max Ours, Father Breen, Paul Beach, Anthony Bonnanno, Barbara and Ells Cheeseman, Summer Heddleston, Maria Steinberg, Elwood Dittmer, Dan Schiavello, Tom Peterson, Special intention, Carol Stahley, Maria King, Irene & Al Breiner, Jeremy Hewens, MD



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INFORMATION SHEET

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Special instructions:

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