

# 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

**March 6, 2016**

## **Fourth Sunday of Lent Laetare (Rejoice) Sunday**

**Saturday—March 5th**

5PM: Knights of Columbus

**Sunday—March 6th, Fourth Sunday of Lent**

8AM: Living & Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

10AM: John Senior (Senior Family)

**Monday— March 7th**

**Weekday: Saints Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs**

9AM:

**Tuesday—March 8th**

**Weekday: Saint John of God, Religious**

9AM:

**Wednesday —March 9th**

**Weekday: Saint Frances of Rome, Religious**

**Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 6-7:30PM**

7:30PM:

**Thursday— March 10th**

**Weekday:**

9AM: Holy Souls in Purgatory (Rex & Mariann Helfant)

**Friday—March 11th**

**Weekday: Abstinence**

6:00PM Stations of the Cross

6:30PM Mass

**Saturday, March 12th**

**Weekday:**

9AM:

5PM:

### COLLECTIONS:

February 28th \$4292.00 includes all special collections

### **Fast and Abstinence and Other Acts of Penance for Lent 2016**

The Bishops of the United States prescribe, as minimal obligation, that all persons who are 14 years of age and older are bound to abstain from eating meat on Ash Wednesday and all Fridays of Lent and Good Friday. Further, all persons 18 years of age and older, up to and including their 59th birthday, are bound to fast by limiting themselves to a single full meal on Ash Wednesday and Good Friday, while the other two meals on those days are to be light.

All the faithful are encouraged, when possible, to participate at Mass and to receive the Holy Eucharist daily, to celebrate frequently the Sacrament of Penance, to undertake spiritual reading, especially the study of the Sacred Scriptures, and to participate in parish Lenten devotions as well as Lenten education programs. Adorations of the Blessed Sacrament is especially recommended.

All are encouraged to participate in “Operation Rive Bowl”, which has aided countless hungry persons here in the Archdiocese as well as throughout our nation and our world.

### **A SUNDAY FOR REJOICING**

Today’s Gospel story of the prodigal son is a favorite of many. We can identify with all the major figures and their crisscross of emotions. The father’s initial grief over his young son’s avarice is turned to relief at his return. The son’s grief over his loss of fortune, family, and friends is turned to delirious joy at the sight of his father.

We understand the eldest son’s bewilderment over his father’s generosity. For the older son, virtue seems not to be its own reward. For all his honorable toil and loyalty, there seems to be no celebration. The father, however, is prodigal in his forgiveness and mercy. He expects the same generosity from his older son. He wants all to rejoice when the lost one is found.

This is a Sunday for rejoicing. It’s time to pause, consider, and encourage one another. We are the prodigal children heading home. We are the elder siblings waiting with the eager Father, who scans the horizon. In Christ Jesus we are reconciled to the Father and one another. In his death and resurrection we have passed over. We are a new creation. In this we rejoice.

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### **TODAY’S READINGS**

**First Reading** — God’s people enter the promised land, observe the Passover, and eat of the produce of the land (Joshua 5:9a, 10-12) *or* 1 Samuel 16:1b, 6-7, 10-13a.

**Psalm** — Taste and see the goodness of the Lord (Psalm 34) *or* Psalm 23.

**Second Reading** — We are now ambassadors for Christ (2 Corinthians 5:17-21) *or* Ephesians 5:8-14.

**Gospel** — We must rejoice when our brother who was dead in sin repents and comes back to life (Luke 15:1-3, 11-32) *or* John 9:1-41 [1, 6-9, 13-17, 34-38].

### **TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION**

One of the first steps to a Catholic wedding takes place in the parish rectory, as the newly engaged come forward to “set a date.” We owe this scenario to reforms made by the emperor Charlemagne late in the eighth century. He required that nobles and commoners alike have public weddings, and also required that marrying couples be examined for factors that would block a marriage, such as previous marriages or close kinship. The pope was more conservative, however, and resisted the emperor’s creativity. It was enough for the pope that the couples exchange consent.

## ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

### Lectors for:

3/12 5PM: Jane Burger  
3/13 8AM: Joseph Keeney  
10AM: Alvin LaBar, OFS

### Altar Servers for:

3/12 5PM: Peter Shea  
3/13 8AM: Brielle Comiskey, Amy Wydner  
10AM: Conor, Darafin, Shane Twomey

### Extraordinary Ministers:

3/12 5PM: Linda Krager  
3/13 8AM: Robert & Margaret Somogyi  
10AM: Mark Culichia, Mary Gambino

### **Please Pray for Our Sick and housebound, deceased members, and for an end to abortion and a respect for all life!**

John Gibson, Steve Ombalski, Jean Krenitsky, Raymond Meehan, Mary Grube Fritchman, Joan Sheeran, Robin Hults, Jay Johnson, Irene Peiffer, Lori Liskowacki, Cynthia Diaz, special intention, Susan Wires, David Grasso, Adrian Steinberg, Joseph Jones, Mary Jane Bernat, Gus Trincheria, Ann Nanni, Keith Marks, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Daniel Steinberg, Jack Latorre, Joann Thaler, Amy Hessenthaler, Calvin, Wilson & Frank Ryan, Eva Zelle, Roger Brahler, Gavin (age 3), Bill Miller, Caitlin, Steven Fusco, Charles More, Jeff & Bonnie, Baby Matthew Royer, Rose Romeo, baby Ely, Max Ours, Father Breen, Paul Beach, Anthony Bonnano, Barbara and Ells Cheeseman, Summer Heddleston, Maria Steinberg, Elwood Ditmer, Dan Schiavello, Tom Peterson, Special intention, Carol Stahley, Maria King, Irene & Al Breiner, Jeremy Hewens, MD

### **Official Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy**

Lord Jesus Christ, you have taught us to be merciful like the heavenly Father, and have told us that whoever sees you sees Him. Show us your face and we will be saved. Your loving gaze freed Zacchaeus and Matthew from being enslaved by money; the adulteress and Magdalene from seeking happiness only in created things; made Peter weep after his betrayal, and assured Paradise to the repentant thief. Let us hear, as if addressed to each one of us, the words that you spoke to the Samaritan woman: "If you knew the gift of God!" You are visible face of the invisible Father, of the God who manifests his power above all by forgiveness and mercy: let the Church be your visible face in the world, its Lord risen and glorified. You willed that your ministers would also clothed in weakness in order that they may feel compassion for those in ignorance and error: let everyone who approaches them feel sought after, loved, and forgiven by God. Send your Spirit and consecrate every one of us with its anointing, so that the Jubilee of Mercy may be a year of grace from the Lord, and your Church, with renewed enthusiasm, may bring good news to the poor, proclaim liberty to captives and the oppressed, and restore sight to the blind. We ask this through the intercession of Mary, Mother of Mercy, you who live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit for ever and ever. Amen.

That tradition is passed on to this day, to some couples' surprise. In 866, Pope Nicholas ruled that a marriage was legal and binding even without a liturgy or public celebration. After that, it was the consent of the couple, not the blessing of parents or priest, that made a marriage "count." If consent was lacking, such as through abduction or fear, then the marriage could not "take." Charlemagne got a great deal done, but he was a political flash in the pan, and the empire had virtually collapsed by the year 1000. Europe broke into a checkerboard of princedoms and languages, and at last all marriages came under the church, the glue holding the known world together.

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

**Fish Fry for Lent:** Riegelsville Fire Company every Friday night starting February 12th to March 25th

**Catholic Cruises and Tours:** cruise to the Western Caribbean on a 7-night sail September 10th to 17th on Carnival Freedom out of Galveston, Texas. Ports of call; Montego Bay (Jamaica), Grand Cayman and Cozumel. Contact Doug or Eileen at 860-399-1785

**Mother Boniface Spirituality Center** in northeast Philadelphia is offering a Celtic Spirituality Retreat, March 4-6. Contact 267-350-1830

**Girl Scout Cookies:** Sunday March 13th after the 10AM Mass. Celebrating 103 years of service making our world a better place and the cookies are great:>

**MANUP Philly:** Spirituality Conference, March 12th, St. Joseph's University. Transforming men & families. 8th Annual. Info: ManUpPhilly.com

**Lenten Retreat for Women:** Saturday, March 19th, 8:30AM—1:15PM @ St. Magdalen de Pazzi church, Flemington, NJ. Info: [www.ComeIntotheWord.com](http://www.ComeIntotheWord.com)

**Special Collection:** For Aid to the Church in Eastern Europe. Any Sunday during Lent.

**Recent Widows & Widowers:** Day of Reflection, Wednesday, March 9th, Malvern Retreat House, 9AM to 3PM. Info @ 610-644-0400

INFORMATION SHEET

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