

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

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

Rectory: 610-749-2684
Rectory Fax: 610-749-2695
Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net
Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org



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.

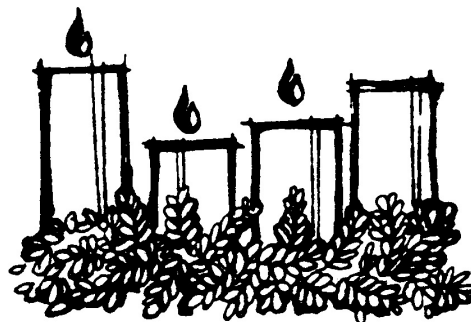
Parish CCD Classes

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

Third Sunday of Advent
December 13, 2015
With joy you will draw water
at the fountain of salvation.
— *Isaiah 12:3*



Saturday, December 12th

Sunday Vigil: Third Sunday of Advent

5PM:

Sunday, December 13th

Third Sunday of Advent

8AM: Joseph & Irene Moninghoff by Barbara Itterly

10AM: Living & deceased members of St. Lawrence Parish

Monday, December 14th

St. John of the Cross, Priest and Doctor of the Church

9AM: Francis a. Curcio by Rex & Mariann Helfant

Tuesday, December 15th

Advent Weekday

9AM:

Wednesday, December 16th

Advent Weekday

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

7:30PM: Holy Souls in Purgatory by Rex & Mariann Helfant

Thursday, December 17th

Late Advent Weekday

9AM:

Friday, December 18th

Late Advent Weekday

6:30PM:

Saturday, December 19th

Late Advent Weekday

9AM:

Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5PM: Frank & Helen Leopold by Peggy Wagner

CHRISTMAS SCHEDULE

Confessions

Saturday, December 19th at 4:00PM

Wednesday, December 23rd at 7PM

Also by appointment

Masses

Thursday, December 24th

4PM Vigil Mass

(especially children friendly)

6PM Vigil Mass

Friday, December 25th

9AM Mass

NB: There will be no 9AM Mass on Saturday, December 26th

NEW YEAR'S SCHEDULE

Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God
(Holyday of obligation)

Confessions

Wednesday, December 30th at 7:00PM

Masses

Thursday, December 31st

5PM Vigil Mass

Friday, January 1st

9AM Mass

CELEBRATE

This Sunday, God rejoices and sings because of us. We read in Zephaniah today that God “will sing joyfully because of you, / as one sings at festivals” (Zephaniah 3:18). We know plenty about singing at festivals. Already our ears are ringing with the songs and carols that anticipate the Christmas season.

Paul reminds us of the source of our own double rejoicing: God is the mighty savior who is in our midst (in Zephaniah’s words). Because this is so, says Paul, we can rejoice and be at ease. We don’t have to worry, for God’s peace will stand guard over our hearts and minds.

A medieval carol depicts Christmas as “my dancing day” and urges us to enter into the dance. Why all the merrymaking? Because “the Lord is near,” as Paul reminds us (Philippians 4:5). He then points to another reason for the dancing: the dawn of the promise of peace, the peace beyond all understanding, that is now within our grasp.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This week, our celebration of Advent makes a transition in ritual and texts. Beginning December 18, the countdown of nine days (a novena) to Christmas sees a heightened sense of expectation, and also a turning from the call of the Baptist in the wilderness to the events leading up to Jesus’ birth. In ancient Spain, December 18 was once celebrated as the “Feast of the Expectancy,” and customs grew up to heighten readiness in the homes.

Some customs arise from monastic life and practice and spill over into our parish life. Beginning tonight, those who pray Vespers will sing in the opening phrase a beautiful title of Christ. These titles belong to a collection of opening phrases called the “O Antiphons” after the awe-inspired “O” sung on the first note. There’s a playful code in the titles: O Wisdom, O Lord, O Flower of Jesse, O Key of David, O Dawn, O Ruler, O Emmanuel. When you take their Latin names—*Sapientia, Adonai, Radix*, and so on—the titles form an acrostic when you read them backwards: “ERO CRAS.” In Latin, that is translated as “I will be there tomorrow!” It’s as if Christ were answering the prayers of the waiting people in the words of the prayers themselves.

—Rev. James Field

Retirement Fund for the Religious

This Collection offers the faithful an opportunity both of appreciation for the service rendered over the years by our religious, and also of assistance for their present needs. We recognize that our American Catholic Church owes a debt of sincere gratitude to our religious men and women for their manifold labors and success. Acknowledging the limitations of their financial resources, this collection has become increasingly important and necessary. Please give generously as you can to this Collection.

Altar & Rosary Society Fundraiser

The Altar & Rosary Society is selling chances for a *Gift Card Tree* valued at over \$200.00. The Drawing will be held on December 20th. Tickets are now on sale in the vestibule for \$2.00 each. Thank you in advance for your support.

Annual Christmas Dinner: Thursday, January 7 at 6PM; Cost \$25/person at the Villa Richard Restaurant. All women of the parish are invited. Look for the flyers in the vestibule.

EMPTY MANGER

As we prepare this Advent Season for the celebration of the birth of the Christ Child on Christmas Day, we invite you to attend "Empty Manger" Christmas Caroling day at the Planned Parenthood facility sponsored by the Bucks County Pro-Life Coalition. The purpose is to bring the joy and hope of Christmas to this place of misery and despair. Children have been saved from abortion when their mothers heard the carols and reconsidered their choice for abortion in light of the Christmas story. On Wednesday, December 16th from 9:30-10:30am we will gather at Planned Parenthood, 610 Louis Drive, Warminster, PA.

COFFEE AND DONUTS

Sunday, December 13th after the 10am Mass. Join us for some coffee and conversation and the most delicious donuts!

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

The 2016 Collection Envelopes have arrived. They are alphabetically arranged on a table in the back of church. Please pick up your box as soon as possible. If you wanted envelopes and did not find some with your name on them, please let us know in the rectory so we can give you blank ones and make sure you get a box next year. Thanks for your help and cooperation.

Annual Children's Christmas Party by the Knights of Columbus and RA@SJB on Sunday, December 13th from noon to 3PM in the Regina Academy @SJB School Gym. See flyer on our bulletin board for more details.

COLLECTION:

December 6th: \$2,083.00

Retirement Fund for the Religious: \$423.00

PARISH SECRETARY POSITION will be open soon. Need computer skills, bookkeeping and people skills. Please submit resume to the parish office.

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Lectors for:

12/19 5PM: Jane Burger

12/20 8AM: Bernie Boylan

10AM: Ells Cheeseman

Altar Servers for:

12/19 5PM: Gregory Derr-Haverlach & Peter Shea

12/20 8AM: Reilly & Brielle Comiskey & Amy Wydner

10AM: Anthony DeArmas & Eric Senior

Extraordinary Ministers:

12/19 5PM: Linda Krager & Ann Funkhouser

12/20 8AM: Robert & Margaret Somogyi

10AM: Mary Gambino & Mark Culichia

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

Jean Krenitsky, Raymond Meehan, Mary Grube Fritchman, Dave Blessing, Joan Sheeran, Robin Hults, William Merkle, 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 Hessesenthaler, 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.

Official Prayer for the Jubilee of Mercy (12/8/2015)

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.

Riegelsville Firehouse Breakfast

Sunday, December 20th from 8am until noon. Order by menu.