

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.

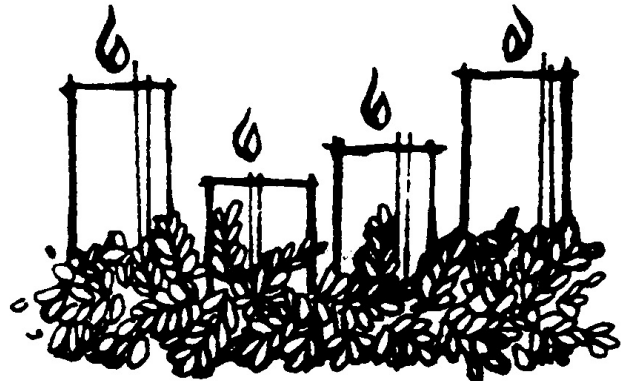
Parish CCD Classes

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

Fourth Sunday of Advent
December 20, 2015
O LORD of hosts,
look down from heaven and see;
take care of this vine,
and protect what your right hand
has planted.
— Psalm 80:15–16



Saturday, December 19th

Sunday Vigil: Fourth Sunday of Advent

5PM: Frank & Helen Leopold by Peggy Wagner

Sunday, December 20th

Fourth Sunday of Advent

8AM: World Peace by Janet Davis & Ted Achuff

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

Monday, December 21st

Advent Weekday

9AM: For the intentions of Cathey Jones by the Lay Carmelite Community

Tuesday, December 22nd

Late Advent Weekday

9AM: Catherine Jonik by Tom & Mary Senior

Wednesday, December 23rd

Late Advent Weekday

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

7:30PM: John Pavlica by Irene Pavlica & Janet Davis

Thursday, December 24th

Late Advent Weekday

4PM: Living & deceased members of St. Lawrence Parish

6PM: Ceader family

Friday, December 25th

The Nativity of the Lord—Christmas

9AM: Helfant family by Rex & Mariann Helfant

Saturday, December 26th

Weekday/Blessed Virgin Mary

No Saturday morning Mass

Vigil: The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

5PM: Theresa Banks by Peggy Wagner

**SUNDAY AND CHRISTMAS TV MASS
FOR THE HOMEBOUND**

Christmas

WMCN channel 44 at 9am

WTVE channel 51 at 11:30am

Sunday

WMCN channel 44 at 8:30am

WTVE channel 51 at 9am

Mass is also online at www.HeartoftheNation.org. For those who can get to church, the TV or online liturgy does not fulfill the Sunday or Christmas Mass obligation.

A NEW ORDER

“O, Little Town of Bethlehem.” A Philadelphia clergyman named Phillips Brooks penned these popular words back in the mid-1800s, but the prophet Micah could have used them first. Micah knew that from small packages great treasures come. In today’s first reading, he knew that from tiny Bethlehem would come the Lord.

The writer in Hebrews explains that Christ came to us to do the will of God by establishing a new order and by becoming our perfect sacrifice. And Luke tells us that Elizabeth and John, the infant in her womb, understand that great and wondrous things are at hand with the coming of the Lord.

This is the Fourth Sunday of Advent. Soon we celebrate anew the fruit of Mary’s womb. As we are told in Hebrews, Jesus’ new order is being established even today. And as Micah proclaims, his greatness is reaching even now to the ends of the earth.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Many of our most treasured traditions link the liturgy of the church with the hearth of the home. The food on the table at certain feasts and fasts helps to extend the mystery into everyday life. Tonight, for example, many families of Italian heritage, especially those with links to the south of Italy, will settle down to the “Feast of the Seven Fishes,” or *La Vigilia*. It is a command performance for the whole family, as the saying goes: *Natale con I tuui, Pasqua conchi vuoi*, or “Christmas with your family, Easter with whomever you wish.” Seven different fish, some say one for each day of Mary and Joseph’s journey to Bethlehem, others say one for each sacrament, or one for each day of creation, are served. Eel and shrimp, lobster and crab, calamari, pasta with clam sauce, flounder and hake all abound, but most especially baccala, dried salted cod. Why? Many say that it is a way to pay homage to the beasts of the stable who witnessed the holy birth and relinquished their manger to make way for God. Tonight, if someone asks you to “pass the shrimp,” you’ll be able to shed a little light on a menu that is a delicious treasure in our tradition!

—Rev. James Field

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

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Lectors for:

12/26 5PM: Dolores Patton

12/27 8AM: Joseph Keeney

10AM: Alvin LaBar, OFS

Altar Servers for:

12/26 5PM: Andrew Benner & Francis Reinart

12/27 8AM: Anna Holmgaard

10AM: Conor, Darafin & Shane Twomey

Extraordinary Ministers:

12/26 5PM: Kathie Weiss & Ann Funkhouser

12/27 8AM: Bernadette Maszczyk & Mariann Helfant

10AM: Joe Affuso & Bernie Boylan

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 Trinchera, 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.

Please pray for the repose of the soul of Frank Crocetti.

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.

MERRY CHRISTMAS!!!

SCRIPTURE READING AND CAROLS

Promptly at 3:40PM, prior to the 4PM Mass on Christmas Eve, the Christmas Story will be told through Scripture Readings and singing of the Christmas Carols. Please come early and enjoy this short traditional Christmas Eve service.

CHRISTMAS DECORATING

We will decorate the church for Christmas on **Sunday, December 20th** starting at 12 noon. All are welcome. Please consider helping fellow parishioners prepare our church to celebrate Christ's birth.

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.

Altar & Rosary Society 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.

COLLECTION:

December 13th: \$3,065.00

Retirement Fund for the Religious: \$109.00

