

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
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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.

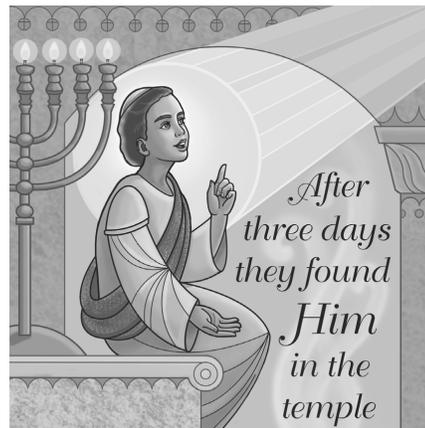
Parish CCD Classes

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

The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph
December 27, 2015
Beloved, we are God's children now;
what we shall be
has not yet been revealed.
— 1 John 3:2a



Saturday, December 26th

Sunday Vigil: Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8PM: Theresa Benko by Peggy Wagner

Sunday, December 27th

Holy Family of Jesus, Mary and Joseph

8AM: for the intentions of Barbra Hendry by Denny, Tony & Judy

10AM: Joan Montelos by the Jones family

Monday, December 28th

The Holy Innocents, Martyrs

9AM: Frank Crocetti by the Krager family

Tuesday, December 29th

Fifth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/St. Thomas Beckett, Bishop and Martyr

9AM:

Wednesday, December 30th

Sixth Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament – 6-7:30PM

7:30PM: Special intention

Thursday, December 31st

Seventh Day within the Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/St. Sylvester I, Pope

5PM: Living & deceased members of St. Lawrence Parish

Friday, January 1st

The Octave of the Nativity of the Lord/Solemnity of Mary, the Holy Mother of God/New Year's Day/World Day of Prayer for Peace

9AM: Holy Souls in Purgatory

Mary, Mother of God



Saturday, January 2nd

Sts. Basil the Great & Gregory Nazianzen, Bishops & Doctors

9AM:

Vigil: The Epiphany of the Lord

5PM: Living & deceased members of the Knights of Columbus

FAMILY LIFE

Family life is sacred, but it is not without trial. Perhaps this is the most important message we can glean from today's readings. If Jesus, Mary, and Joseph can trip up sometimes—can disconnect—then we shouldn't find it surprising when such things happen to us as well. And parents everywhere (children, too) can probably relate to—and take some solace in—the Gospel's account of Mary and Joseph after Jesus explained why he stayed behind in the temple. They heard his words, Luke tells us, "But they did not understand what he said to them" (Luke 2:50). Amen! Nevertheless, Jesus does go back home with them, and continues to thrive under their care.

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

This New Year's Eve, at the turning of the year, you may catch a glimpse of the old year, a cartoon figure of a hunched old man with a sickle, Father Time. Where else but in this column could you learn that this is in fact a pope? December 31 was in the old calendar the feast of St. Sylvester. Legend says that Sylvester healed the Emperor Constantine of leprosy, and presided at the liturgy of baptism for the grateful emperor. In 314, he was chosen pope, and it fell to him to organize the peacetime church, free at last from persecution. He founded the Lateran Basilica, the cathedral of the Diocese of Rome.

In northern Europe "Sylvester Night" is a time of great parties with eating, dancing, and singing—recalling perhaps the joy of the church in the fresh air of Sylvester's papacy. In Poland, there was great fear as the year 1000 approached that an immense dragon would devour the earth and set fire to the heavens. The people prayed earnestly to St. Sylvester, trusting that the saint would not permit such suffering on his feast day. They've been celebrating ever since!

Many New Year's customs have pagan roots, like the British "First Footer" tradition. The idea is that the first person setting foot into your house in the new year determines the luck for the year ahead. The ideal first footer was not a bit like old Pope Sylvester, but rather a tall, dark-haired man carrying the right gift. A handsome first footer meant the year ahead would be pleasant, and if he carried bread or a shovel of coal there would be food and warmth in the future. Who will be your household's first footer?

—Rev. James Field

A Christmas Blessing

On this day illumined by the gospel hope which springs from the humble stable of Bethlehem, I invoke the Christmas gift of joy and peace upon all: upon children and the elderly, upon young people and families, the poor and the marginalized. May Jesus, who was born for us, console all those afflicted by illness and suffering. May he sustain those who devote themselves to serving our brothers and sisters who are most in need. Happy Christmas to all! —Pope Francis

COLLECTION ENVELOPES

There are still more boxes of collection envelopes in back of church. You will need them starting next weekend. If you do not want boxed envelopes in the future, please let us know now. 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.

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.

DECORATIONS

Will be taken down after the 10am Mass on Sunday, January 10th. Many hands will make the job go quickly. If you can give us some help, it will be greatly appreciated.

COFFEE & DONUTS

Sunday, January 10th, there will be coffee and donuts in the social hall after the 10am Mass. Please plan to join us for some relaxation, good coffee and delicious donuts.



January 1, 2016

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE:

Lectors for:

01/02 5PM: Frank Hyland
01/03 8AM: Martin Piccinich
10AM: Bernie Boylan

Altar Servers for:

01/02 5PM: Gregory Derr-Haverlach & Peter Shea
01/03 8AM: Eric & Melissa Shunk
10AM: Fernanda Culichia

Extraordinary Ministers:

01/02 5PM: Russell Benner & Linda Krager
01/03 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!

Steve Ombalsky, Jean Krenitsky, Raymond Meehan, Mary Grube Fritchman, 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.

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.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!!!