



PARISH STAFF, MINISTRY DIRECTORY, AND CONTACT INFORMATION

PARISH STAFF & MAILING ADDRESS

Parish Mailing Address

420 Holland Street, Shillington, PA 19607

Pastor

Rev. Richard Clement: 610.777.1365

Resident

Rev. Gene Ritz: 610.777.1365

Deacon

Deacon F. Joseph Lombardo: 610.777.1697

Principal of La Salle Academy

Mr. Stephen Mickulik: 610.777.7392

Parish Secretary

Bernadette Yohn: 610.777.1697

Parish Communications Coordinator

Sarah Capato: 610.850.4978

Director of Religious Education

Bernadette Yohn: 610.777.1697

For Bulletin / Website Inquiries or Announcements

Contact: Sarah Capato at 610.850.4978

OUTREACH & PARISH MINISTRIES

Culture of Life

Contact: Bob Peters at 610.775.8965

Bereavement Ministry

Contact: Roseann Kumor at 610.775.7431

Justice in Action Ministry

Contact: Arlene Seeber at 484.794.8027

Breaking Bread Social Committee

Contact: Lois Lombardo at 610.777.2542

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Contact: Joan Yanuskiewicz at 610.777.4646

Nursing Home Visitors for Rosary & Mass

Contact: Billie & Mike Resch at 610.775.3927

Food Pantry / Emergency Meals

Contact: Lois Carrier at 610.777.6947

Advocacy for Persons with Disabilities

Contact: Kathleen Roche at 610.777.4792

Parish Nurse Ministry

Contact: Sharon Shingler at 610.775.9998

St. Paul Street Evangelization

Contact: Gina Aldi at 484.769.5346

ORGANIZATIONS

Prime Timers

Contact: Nick Bentz at 610.777.8864

Boy Scouts

Contact: Dan Giesen at 610.777.4387

Girl Scouts

Contact: Britt Kobularcik at 484.256.1782

Daisy: Grade K-1, Brownies: Grade 2/3, Juniors: Grade 4/5

Cub Scouts

Contact: Mitzi Ziolkowski at 610.856.0708

Knights of Columbus

Contact: Jim Stallone at 610.406.8543

Altar Society

Contact: Carol Bensing at 610.777.9360

Men's Recreational Basketball Club

Contact: Russ Baver at 610.507.0627

CYO (Christian Youth Organization)

Contact: Rock Witmer at 610.775.2176

Parish Gardeners

Contact: Chris Hofmann at 610.777.2523

WORSHIP

Eucharistic Adoration

First Fridays of each month from 8:30AM-12:00PM

Altar Servers

Students from Grade 4 to Seniors in High School

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Adult Funeral Servers

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Children's Liturgy of the Word:

Sunday's at 10:30AM Mass, between September and May

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Eucharistic Ministers

Contact: Lorna Pfeiffenberger at 610.777.4822

Lectors

Contact: Deacon Joe Lombardo at 610.777.2542

Ministers of Hospitality

Contact: Deacon Joe Lombardo at 610.777.2542

Liturgical Music

Contact: Christopher Hoster at 610.334.1188

Cantors

Contact: Christopher Hoster at 610.334.1188

Baptismal Prep

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Baptismal Bibs

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Sacristans

Contact: Elaine Strick at 610.856.7264

Youth Group

Contact: Monica Hess at 484.388.9553

SPIRITUAL GROWTH

RCIA (Rite of Christian Initiation for Adults)

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Adult Education (Seasonal)

Contact: Parish Office at 610.777.1697

Spiritual Direction

Contact: Arlene Seeber at 484.794.8027

Faith Sharing for Women

Contact: Arlene Seeber at 484.794.8027

Parish Prayer Line

Contact: Judy Peters at 610.775.8965

Charismatic Prayer Group

Contact: Amelia "Midge" Biancone at 610.777.2215

COMPREHENSIVE CATHOLIC EDUCATION

La Salle Academy: Preschool, Pre Kindergarten, K-8th Grade

Mr. Stephen Mickulik, Principal: 610.777.7392

Berks Catholic High School: 9th-12th Grade

Mr. Tony Balistrere, Principal: 610.374.8361

Parish Religious Education Program: 1st-8th Grade

Mrs. Bernadette Yohn, DRE: 610.777.1697

RCIA: Age 18+

Mrs. Bernadette Yohn, DRE: 610.777.1697

SCHEDULING USE OF PARISH FACILITIES

For those interested in using the Father Lyons room for a meeting or special event, please contact the Parish Office at 610.777.1697

MASS INTENTIONS FOR THE WEEK

MONDAY, DEC. 26 – St. Stephen
8:00 a.m. NO MASS TODAY

TUESDAY, DEC. 27 – St. John
7:00 p.m. Lewis Anuszewski

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 28 – The Holy Innocents
8:00 a.m. Dr. Henry Bialas
10:30 a.m. Dino Schiaroli - Mifflin

THURSDAY, DEC. 29 – St. Thomas Becket
7:00 p.m. The deceased members of the
Wisniewski Family

FRIDAY, DEC. 30 – The Holy Family of Jesus,
Mary and Joseph
8:00 a.m. Joan Gurski

SOLEMNITY OF MARY, MOTHER OF GOD

SATURDAY, DEC. 31
4:00 p.m. People of the Parish

SUNDAY, JAN. 1
8:30 a.m. Raymond Hofmann
10:30 a.m. Frank Kakos

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DEC. 31 - 4:00PM

Lector: Craig Turnbaugh
Cantor: -----
Servers: Andrew Stout, Luke Bennethum, Jack Makosch
EM: J/B.Peters, L/D.Curran, L.Katzaman, M.Melniczek,
C.Brahmstadt, ME.Symanski

SUNDAY, JAN. 1 - 8:30AM

Lector: Paul Berthinet
Cantor: -----
Servers: Amie Wickel, Kayla Davis, Sara Teson

SUNDAY, JAN. 1 - 10:30AM

Lector: Tony Farina
Cantor: -----
Servers: Lauren & Paige Hagan, Chloe Ritter
EM: D.Berletic, A.Cannon, L.Asgari, K.Luft, D/D.Giesen,
L.Kellenberger, K.Kellenberger

Sanctuary Candle for the week of 12/25-31: In
loving memory of Kim Manning (requested by
Bernard & Jean Manning)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, December 25

NO Rel. Ed classes (classes will resume on Jan. 8)

Tuesday, December 27

NO RCIA
7:30 pm Charismatic Prayer Group

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP
12/11 - \$12,627.25

A FRESH PERSPECTIVE ON THE SUNDAY READINGS

HIS WORD TODAY by Rev. William J. Reilly

The Nativity of the Lord

"The grace of God has appeared, offering salvation to all men. It trains us to reject godless ways and worldly desires and live temperately, justly and devoutly in this age as we await our blessed hope, the appearing of the glory of the great God and of our Savior Christ Jesus... to redeem us and to cleanse for himself a people of his own... eager to do what is right."
Why this passage from St. Paul's letter to Titus as part of our worship on this great Christmas day? It is easy for us to be so caught up in many distractions that we overlook some basic points. Do I realize that there were centuries of waiting for the Messiah and people grew weary and forgetful? Paul tells them, the savior has appeared. If the coming of the redeemer speaks to me today, my Christmas joy reminds me that godless ways and worldly desires are not the focus. Gifts, consumerism, travel and visits are ours because the gift, Jesus, who travelled to earth and Bethlehem, placed salvation at our disposal. God did His part, we now must do ours. He has redeemed and purified us and claims us as His. My response is eager acceptance of what He has come to offer me. As I look around, who needs to know of my experience of this redeeming savior? The books, the songs, the traditions can tell me of Him and this day. They encourage me to seek Him. Prayer is where I meet Him. The virtues of temperance, justice and piety reflect our serious and joy filled acceptance of Jesus Christ this Christmas of 2016. May you be blessed.

Please direct all bulletin and website inquiries to the Parish Communications Coordinator,
Sarah Capato at 610.850.4978 or sarah@stjohnsfamilyoffaith.com.
Bulletin submissions are due Thursday, ten days prior to the Sunday of publication.

PARISH HAPPENINGS



We would like to wish all of our Family of Faith a very merry Christmas and a happy, and healthy New Year. Take the time during this blessed season to invite your loved ones back to the Church to experience the love of God.



PRIME TIMERS NEWS

PRIMETIMER GENERAL MEETING: You're sure to enjoy starting your New Years off with the great sounds of Steve Barth. So come and join us on Tuesday, January 3, 2017 at 1:00 pm in the Fr. Lyons Room for some great entertainment and tasty goodies. We look forward to seeing you there!

Faith Sharing for Women

Are you hoping to grow in your faith in 2017? Faith Sharing for Woman could be the answer to your quest. Come and see what this group offers on **Wednesday evening, January 4 at 7:30 pm** in the Father Lyons Room. Faith Sharing continues to follow the exercises in Joyce Rupp's book *The Cup of Life*. Be sure to bring a cup of your choice for symbolic use in the reflection. You will also need pen and paper or a journal. This group of parish women will greet first time participants with a warm welcome. For more information contact Arlene Seeber (484-794-8027 or arleneseeber@icloud.com).



LIFELINE ANNUAL GIVING TREE

The snowflake ornaments on our Lifeline Giving Tree have all been chosen by you, our generous and loving parishioners. Please drop off your unwrapped gift along with the snowflake ornament in the blue tub-box marked **Lifeline Giving Tree** found in the Fr. Lyons Room. Cash donations and checks (make out to Lifeline of Berks County) should be placed in a sealed envelope marked Lifeline Giving Tree and either placed in the blue box or in the Sunday collection basket. For more information, please call Bob Peters at 610-775-8965

Justice in Action Ministry



New members are most welcome to join in the discussion and planning for 2017 projects and education topics at the next Justice in Action meeting on Tuesday, January 10 at 7:30 pm at the home of Sue Goodwin (16 Alpine Drive Mohnton - 610-777-5827). Volunteer opportunities include service to the homeless through Habitat for Humanity, Family Promise of Berks County, and Opportunity House. Volunteers also offer help to parishioners in need of assistance with routine household tasks and visit residents of local nursing homes and assisted living centers. Come on January 10 to learn how you can become involve. Be sure to look for details on projects in future bulletins. Snow date for this meeting is Tuesday, January 17 same time and same location.

Our international students attending Berks Catholic High School this January 2017 need host families. A generous reimbursement is provided. Call AnB Education 267.263.2481 or email hostfamily@anbeducation.com

BERKS CATHOLIC NEWS

- **Saints Shoot Out and Cheerleading Clinic-** December 28, 2016- For Boys and Girls Grades K-8. Offensive moves for guards and forwards, dribbling moves, shooting, shooting off the dribble, shooting off the pass, and shoot out contest. Please go to the Berks Catholic Website for a registration form. www.berkscatholic.org
- **Open House, January 29, 2017 2-4pm:** A terrific opportunity to meet faculty, administration and current students. Our clubs and activities are on display to give you a glimpse into what we are about. It's Open House is an exciting and neat experience seeing our community together.



A Most Successful Angel Tree. Your generosity is awesome!

Thank you to all those who adopted the tags naming the Christmas wishes for gifts for a family in great need. All gifts were received, wrapped and delivered. Your generosity brought much needed "Joy to the World" of this family this Christmas. May you, too, receive great Joy this Christmas and into the New Year.



YOUTH GROUP

St. John's Youth Group would like to wish everyone a blessed Christmas and a joyous New Year! Our next meeting will be on January 8th from 6:15-7:45 in the LaSalle Cafe. All 8th- 12th graders are welcome! We hope to see some new members in the New Year!

SIGN-UP FOR LIFE AD: Sign-ups will be held in the Fr. Lyons Room after ALL Masses on December 31/January 1 and on January 7/8. This Pro-Life Ad will be published in the Reading Eagle on Sunday, January 22, 2017, the 43rd anniversary of the legalization of abortion in the United States. Sponsors are asked to contribute \$6 for Individuals and \$12 for Couples & Families. Your names will be displayed in the Ad under our Parish name. Proceeds from the Life Ad support Mary's Shelter/Home, an alternative to abortion for pregnant women in need of housing and care. Please contact Bob Peters 610-775-8965 for any questions. Thank You!!



A Ladies Tea is scheduled for Sunday January 22nd in the Father Lyons room. If you gals are bored while the men are watching football come join us for an afternoon tea social. Reservations are needed and there is no cost involved. Please just complete the form below and drop it in the collection basket by Sunday January 15nd 2017

I'll be there for Tea!

Name _____

Phone _____



Gift Exchange

by Kathy Olenik Henry

The word Christmas is derived from the Greek Christos—anointed one—and the Latin Missa—to send. In other words, the anointed one is sent, the divine to the worldly. We celebrate the Incarnation; God has taken on human form and come to dwell among us. Dictionary.com defines Christmas as “the annual festival of the Christian

church commemorating the birth of Jesus: celebrated on December 25 and now generally observed as a legal holiday and an occasion for exchanging gifts.” Well, sort of . . . I suppose. Is it really just a gift exchange? We may feel a bit conflicted with the distortion of religious beliefs by the typical holiday extravaganza. Have we forgotten that Christmas is not just a giant shopping spree and opportunity for overindulgence? Nonetheless, regardless of our beliefs and practices during the rest of the year, many will take time on this one day to enter a church and pause to reflect on the Christmas story. We hunger for something more. Deep down we know the purpose for this season lies there in the straw.

What is it we come looking for within the walls of the sanctuary? What is so important about this event that we prepare with such energy, misguided or otherwise?

To simply say that love is at the heart of it would be insufficient. Indeed much of our Christmas busy-ness involves some expression of love. We exchange gifts. We send greetings. We spend time together. We make an effort to reach out to those less fortunate than ourselves. We look for opportunities to heal damaged or broken relationships. We remember those we have lost. Yet the love at the heart of this feast is more than we can possibly imagine. The love we seek is the indescribable love God has for all humankind, the reason God sent a redeemer to bring us back to where we belong. It is agape—unselfish, self-sacrificing love without strings or implications. It is a love with no memory of past mistakes.

We yearn for something beyond what we are humanly capable of giving or receiving. Our restless spirits seek some way to grasp at something we can only find in the divine. And so we come to church to rest quietly in the presence of that which we seek.

When we gather to offer ourselves in worship, God sees our hearts longing to receive the greatest gift of all. Regardless of the intensity of our religious faith or the amount of preparation we have done, we humbly acknowledge that we are all the same, restless souls in need of a God who loves us unconditionally.

A blessed, peace-filled, Spirit-filled Christmas to all!



St. John Baptist de la Salle Family of Faith

EXPERIENCE LOVE & ACCEPTANCE BY COMING HOME TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH.

There's an old saying that goes, "Once a Catholic, always a Catholic." Maybe you have been away from the Church for a little while or for quite some time, but now you feel a tug at your heart calling you back to the Catholic Church. Listen to that tug. It's your Heavenly Father reaching his arms out to you, the Holy Spirit whispering in your ear, hoping to draw you home. We hope you accept this as your invitation to rediscover the truth, wonder and mystery of the Catholic faith. As your brothers and sisters in our worldwide Catholic family, we want you back. We've missed you, and our Church is not the same without you.

Regardless of why you left or got out of the habit of going to Mass, you can always come home and return to the practice of the sacraments and the fullness of relationship with Jesus Christ and the Church he founded. We are Catholic. Welcome home.

Your Father in heaven wants you to come home, and so do we, your fellow members of Christ's body, the Church. The longing you have in your heart can be fulfilled through Jesus and his Catholic Church. You are not alone. Countless of your own brothers and sisters in Christ have returned home, have come back to Confession and to Mass, and have experienced the joy of a renewed relationship with the God who loves them and accepts them unconditionally. Now, you can too.

HOW CAN I FEEL WELCOMED IN THE CATHOLIC CHURCH AGAIN AFTER EXPERIENCING HURT AT THE HANDS OF PEOPLE IN THE CHURCH?

It can be difficult when we feel like our fellow Christians aren't acting very Christian toward us or toward others. The Church is indeed made up of sinful, imperfect people, who often disappoint. But rather than distancing yourself from the Holy Eucharist and the Catholic Church that Christ founded, consider clinging to Jesus all the more, since he never disappoints. It is helpful, in times of trial and hurt, to remember why you are Catholic—not because all Catholics always represent the mercy and love of Jesus perfectly well, but because the Catholic Church was founded by Jesus, administers the sacraments, and contains the fullness of Truth, helping all of us to draw closer to God and grow in holiness. Do not allow the actions of some to cause you to lose faith in the Church as a whole. Discuss your frustrations with a priest or deacon at your local parish, and start your journey back to a welcoming home. Above all, do not lose heart. People may disappoint, but God never leaves us, and He is always present in the Catholic Church he founded.

WHAT STEPS DO I TAKE TO COME BACK TO THE CATHOLIC CHURCH?

Recognize that your Heavenly Father yearns for you to come home to his Church. Then, go to Confession at your local parish and consider discussing any concerns or questions you may have about returning home with a priest. Begin going to Mass again and experiencing Christ's presence through worshipping in the liturgy. The Bible and the Catechism of the Catholic Church are also there to help you on your journey home, as are parish ministries like RCIA or a local returning Catholics group. Know that you are not alone, and do not be afraid to find answers to your questions, both here and through your local Catholic parish community.

