



## 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. 5** – Advent Weekday  
8:00 a.m. Intentions for Dolores Willems

**TUESDAY, DEC. 6** – Advent Weekday  
7:00 p.m. Clerv Artz

**WEDNESDAY, DEC. 7** – St. Ambrose  
\*\*\*NO 8AM MASS TODAY\*\*\*  
4:00 p.m. Ruth Barry

**THURSDAY, DEC. 8** – Immaculate Conception of  
the Blessed Virgin Mary  
9:00 a.m. People of the Parish  
7:00 p.m. Raymond Kase

**FRIDAY, DEC. 9** – St. Juan Diego  
Cuahtlatzoatzin  
8:00 a.m. Michael Plaskonas

**THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**

**SATURDAY, DEC. 10**  
4:00 p.m. Ed Gajewski

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11**  
8:30 a.m. Frank Kumor  
10:30 a.m. People of the Parish

### UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

**SATURDAY, DEC. 10 - 4:00PM**

Lector: Shayla Carey  
Cantor: Karla Akemann  
Servers: Sophia Pienta, Catherine Maher, Molly Yohn  
EM: K/R.Stuber, G.Unger, T.Cuba, T.Seidel. P.Goodhart,  
C/J.Geiger

**SUNDAY, DEC. 11 - 8:30AM**

Lector: Ed Lawrence  
Cantor: Debbie Brooks  
Servers: Jake, Ben & Rosie Makosch

**SATURDAY, DEC. 11 - 10:30AM - CHOIR**  
Lector: Tom Cuba  
Cantor: Sue Gallen  
Servers: Matt Brown, Grant Kellenberger, Joseph  
Kowalski  
EM: J.Stephan, A.Seeber, V.Sottosanti, B.Wells, N.Faust,  
K.Roché, MB.Kakos, N.O'Leary

**Away from home?** Find a Mass  
wherever you are at [www.masstimes.org](http://www.masstimes.org)

**Please take Note: This Thursday, December 8 is a Holyday of Obligation, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Masses: Vigil, Dec. 7 at 4 pm & Dec. 8 at 9 am & 7 pm.**

### UPCOMING EVENTS

**Sunday, December 4**

8:30 – 10:30 am Knights of Columbus Breakfast in  
the La Salle Cafeteria  
11:30 am Bereavement Social- Fr. Lyons Room  
6:15 pm Youth Group- La Salle Cafe  
6:30 pm Rel. Ed classes

**Monday, December 5**

6:00 pm Choir rehearsal  
7:30 pm Knights of Columbus General Mtg.

**Tuesday, December 6**

11:15 am Prime Timers Christmas Luncheon at  
Shady Maple  
7:00 pm RCIA  
7:30 pm Charismatic Group

**Wednesday, December 7**

4:00 pm Vigil Mass for Holy Day  
7:30 pm Faith Sharing for Women

**Thursday, December 8 – Immaculate Conception**

9:00 am Mass  
7:00 pm Mass

**Friday, December 9**

12:30pm La Salle Academy Christmas Show

### WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP 11/20 - \$9,467.50

Sanctuary Candle for the week of 12/4-10: In  
loving memory of Dorothy & George Stavarski



**We welcome with joy, our  
newest members to our parish  
family!**

**Baptisms for the month of  
November:**

- Charlotte Grace Chmielowski
- Alejandro Martinez

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

## PARISH HAPPENINGS

### **BEREAVEMENT MNISTRY**

On Sunday, December 4, 2016 our Bereavement Group will host a Social Hour after the 10:30 AM Mass. The loss of a loved one is difficult especially during the holiday season. Please join us for some friendship and light refreshments and some conversation with others who are having the same issues you are experiencing. So mark your calendar to join us on December 4, 2016 in the Fr. Lyons Room for our Social Hour.

Sincerely, The Bereavement Group

### **Faith Sharing for Women**

Come join with a group of women in our parish for an evening of prayer and discussion on Wednesday, December 7 at 7:30 pm in the Father Lyons Room. Faith Sharing for Women welcomes new comers to join in a shared reflection on The Cup of Our Life, A Guide to Spiritual Growth by the popular spiritual writer Joyce Rupp O.S.M. Each session is complete in itself, so participation in previous sessions is not required. Come and see whether this journey for growth in our faith is meant for you. Suggestion: bring a Catholic bible, a journal or paper, and pen and a personal cup of your choosing to use in the reflection exercises. For more information get in touch with Arlene Seeber (arleneseeber@icloud.com or 484.794.8027)



**The Breaking Bread Committee invites you to join us for an evening of caroling** at Penn State Health St. Joe's on Friday December 16 at 7 p.m.! We're taking our voices indoors where it's warm this year, so we can warm the hearts of those who are hospitalized with the

gift of Christmas song and spirit. All experience levels welcome. Familiar Christmas carols provided. St. Joe's is located at 2500 Bernville Rd. Reading, PA 19605. We will meet in the main lobby of the hospital at 7 p.m. Please RSVP to Kathleen Luft by Wednesday 12/14: 610.743.5650 or kathpenn501@gmail.com.

### **BAKED GOODS NEEDED**

St. John's Youth Group will be hosting a bake sale on December 11th in the Father Lyons Room, with all proceeds going to the Youth Group, for their trips and service projects for 2017. If you are interested in donating baked goods to help with the success of the sale please contact Sarah Capato at 610.850.4978 or sarah@stjohnsfamilyoffaith.com. Thank you kindly for your support!

### **Justice in Action Ministry Meeting**

Justice in Action Ministry (JAM) will next meet on Tuesday, December 6 at 7:30 pm at the home of Sue Goodwin (16 Alpine Drive, Mohnton 610.777.5827). All interested parishioners are most welcome to join in the discussion on the Advent Giving Tree and future projects. For more information, get in touch with Arlene Seeber at arleneseeber@icloud.com or 484.794.8027.



### **Sandwich Sale!**

St. John's Youth Group will be hosting a sandwich sale! Pre-orders will be taken after Masses the weekend of Dec. 3/4 with the pickup date being December 11th. Enjoy a night off from cooking, and while you're picking up, grab some baked goods from our bake sale for dessert as well! All proceeds will benefit our youth group's 2017 trips and service projects. Thank you for you support!






## Join Us For a Cookie Swap!

Saturday December 17 and Sunday December 18 after each Mass.  
Donate 2 dozen of your favorite cookies and take home  
2 dozen different kinds of cookies to enjoy.

Cookies can be dropped off a half hour before each Mass. Then after  
Mass you can return and pick up your selection of cookies.



**Holy Guardian Angels Church will conduct its 23<sup>rd</sup> Annual Advent Concert with Vespers** on Sunday, December 4 at 4 PM in the church. The Choir is acclaimed for its Vespers Program performed during the Advent season. What a wonderful way to begin this season with an afternoon of spiritual enrichment and seasonal inspiration.

**The Polish-American Heritage Assoc. of Berks County** will be holding their 12th Annual Polish Christmas Eve Wigilia Dinner on Dec. 18 at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Centre Ave. Doors open at 4:15PM. For more information and reservations, call Henry Pruski at 610.372.1279 after 7PM. Deadline is Dec. 12.

**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](mailto:hostfamily@anbeducation.com)

**THE YOUTH GROUP WILL MEET SUNDAY, DEC. 4TH AT 6:15 IN THE LA SALLE CAFE. PLEASE BRING ALL HOAGIE ORDER FORMS TO BE TURNED IN.**

**A very special THANK YOU to the Bean Funeral Home who sponsored our parish calendars this year. We are very grateful for your donation.**

**District 3 Berks CYO** announced that all CYO spectators and athletes are encouraged to bring a non-perishable food item to all games scheduled throughout Berks County on December 3 and 4. No entrance fee will be charged for all those that bring a food item. The collected food will go to St. Joseph's Food Pantry. May God bless our winter CYO sports season.

### **GUIDELINES FOR THOSE WHO ARE HOSPITAL BOUND:**

- If you are scheduled for a hospital visit and know in advance, please see Father Rich before or after mass and he will anoint you and bless you.
- When being admitted to the Reading Hospital please advise the admitting staff person you are Catholic and a member of St. John Baptist de LaSalle. Should you want Communion while you are hospitalized please tell them you want Communion either daily or weekly and your name will be added to list of the Eucharistic Ministers who serve at the hospital. If you have any questions about this procedure see Deacon Joe Lombardo.

**This Christmas season brings two opportunities to give back to those in need. If able, please take part in one or both of our trees, and help make this a blessed Christmas for those less fortunate. Your generosity does not go unnoticed.**

### **Advent Giving Tree**

**This Christmas bring "Joy to the World" of a family in need**

This year our parish Advent Giving Tree will be adorned with tags requesting particular gifts for a family in great need. Tags for various clothing requests will designate gender, age and size. Tags with the children's toy wishes will designate gender and age. Each gift should be wrapped with the tree tag attached on the outside to ensure delivery to the intended family member. Throughout Advent your wrapped gifts can be left in a designated box in the Father Lyons Room. Gift certificates to local stores are also needed and can be put into an envelope with the tag and marked "Giving Tree" and placed in the Sunday collection basket. All donations must be received by no later than Sunday December 18. Thank you for generously bringing much Christmas joy to this family.



### **The Annual Lifeline Giving Tree**

will be going up on Saturday, December 3<sup>rd</sup>. Our Church Family is asked to share in the spirit of giving that Christmas brings to help Lifeline of Berks County replenish their store of supplies, which serves babies, mothers and their families this Christmas and throughout the year. Please choose an ornament from the tree which will have a label containing a needed baby item. Bring the

new UNWRAPPED gift and place it in the Fr. Lyons Room. We ask that you return the ornament with your gift so we can reuse it next year. Your generous donations and Checks (Make out to *Lifeline of Berks County*) will be brought directly to Lifeline at the end of the Advent/Christmas Season. For more information, please call Bob Peters 610.775.8965



**The Parish of  
St. Benedict Presents...**  
Our Fourth Annual Advent  
Vespers & Concert  
Sunday, Dec. 18, 2016  
4:00PM

Come and enjoy our Parish Choir under the direction of Andrew Angstadt and a professional String Quartet as we embrace this beautiful season of Advent and prepare our hearts for the joyous season of Christmas. This will be an afternoon filled with sacred scripture, prayer, and music that will melt your hearts and fill you with the spirit of Christmas. All are welcome!

### **Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist Invite You To:**

Kathleen McCarthy: Tuesday, December 6, 2016  
Morning Session: 9am-Noon - Evening Session: 7-9pm  
*Morning Session* will include Conference, Exposition of the Eucharist, Sacrament of Reconciliation, and the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass. *Evening Session* will include Liturgy of the Hours, Conference, and Healing Prayer Service with Eucharistic Exposition & Benediction. Come to one or both sessions! There are two separate programs; if you miss one you are welcome to come to the other session. Kathleen is Founder of Morning Star, New Dawn Ministries, and host of the popular weekly radio show, In His Sign. To register for an event contact: Our Lady's Missionaries of the Eucharist, olme@olme.org 610.582.3333. All are Welcome! Bring a Friend! Your generous donation will be deeply appreciated.

# THE GOSPEL FOR ALL AGES

2nd Sunday of Advent - Readings: Isaiah 11.1-10; Romans 15.4-9; Matthew 3.1-12

## LIFE AND GOSPEL QUESTIONS BY AGE LEVEL

### Everyone

Question from Life: From whom do you inherit your faith?

Question from the Gospel: How have you gone beyond being a Christian by birth and baptism?

### Visions (Younger Teens)

Life Question: Who has helped you to change?

Gospel Question: What does John the Baptist mean when he says that being a child of Abraham is not enough?

### Venture (Grades 4-6)

Life Question: How have you changed?

Gospel Question: How will the one who comes after John the Baptist be different from him?

### Good News (Grades 2-3)

Life Question: How does your parish get ready for Christmas?

Gospel Question: How can you prepare for the great leader, Jesus, who is coming?

### Promise (Grades K-1)

Life Question: Name ways you help your family get ready for an event.

Gospel Question: How are you getting ready for Christmas?

### Seeds (Preschool)

Life Question: Who makes up your family?

Gospel Question: Who are members of Jesus' family?



## ADVENT FAMILY PRAYER

During Advent, we not only prepare ourselves to celebrate the birth of Jesus, but we also check in to see if we are doing all the things that will keep us ready to receive Jesus when he comes again. Talk to your family about how you are doing in attending to your spiritual life as a family. Recommit yourselves to praying daily, reading Scripture, and staying faithful to God's commandments. Pray together that through this Advent season your family will be more prepared to receive Jesus when he comes again.



God of Love,  
Your son, Jesus, is your greatest gift to us.  
He is a sign of your love.  
Help us walk in that love during the weeks of  
Advent,  
As we wait and prepare for his coming.  
We pray in the name of Jesus, our Savior.  
Amen.