



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

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

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: Elaine Strick at 484.824.1577

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

Divorce Ministry

Contact: Deb Seidl at 610.763.6528

ORGANIZATIONS

Prime Timers

Contact: Nick Bentz at 610.777.8864

Boy Scouts

Contact: Dan Giesen at 610.777.4387

Cub Scouts

Contact: Dan Giesen at 610.777.4387

Knights of Columbus

Contact: Bill Griffith at 484.797.0669

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

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: Ashlee Hess at 610.944.4862

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

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, 8:00 a.m.	NOV. 20 - Weekday Intentions for Michael La Fata
TUESDAY, 7:00 p.m.	NOV. 21 – Presentation of the Blessed Virgin Mary Lloyd Wolf
WEDNESDAY, 8:00 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	NOV. 22 – St. Cecilia John & Eleanor Mc Ginn Larry Blanski – Mifflin Nursing Home
THURSDAY, 9:00 a.m.	NOV. 23 – SS. Clement I & Columban, & Bl. Miguel Agustin Pro Joseph Troy
FRIDAY, 8:00 a.m.	NOV. 24 St. Andrew Dũng-Lac & Companions NO MASS TODAY
OUR LORD JESUS CHRIST, KING OF THE UNIVERSE	
SATURDAY, 4:00 p.m.	NOV. 25 Intentions for the Becker & Dugan Families
SUNDAY, 8:30 a.m. 10:30 a.m.	NOV. 26 People of the Parish Anna & Cologero Sottosanti

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, NOV. 25 - 4:00PM

Lector: TBD
Cantor: Mary McDevitt
Servers: Sonia & Rahul Mannepul, Lydia Toal
EM: C.Boland, T.Seidel, C/G.Legezd, G.Unger,
ME.Symanski, C.Brahmstadt, P.Goodhart

SUNDAY, NOV. 26 - 8:30AM

Lector: Bernadette Yohn
Cantor: Sue Gallen
Servers: Joseph Kowalski, Andrew & Caitlin Stout

SUNDAY, NOV. 26 - 10:30AM

Lector: Craig Turnbaugh
Cantor: Deb Brooks
Servers: Joseph Giesen, Luke & Brynn Bennethum
EM: L.Fox, D.Cannon, D/D.Giesen, S.Hyneman,
F.Claytor, J.Bradley, L.Asgari



Altar Bread for the month of
November: In loving memory of
Chip Eckton (requested by the
Eckton Family)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Nov. 19

6:30 pm Rel. Ed classes

Monday, Nov. 20

7:30 pm K of C Business Mtg.

Tuesday, Nov. 21

NO RCIA (class resumes on 11/28)

6:00 pm Choir Rehearsal (Fr. Lyons Room)

7:30 pm Charismatic Group

Wednesday, Nov. 22

LSA Closed (classes resume on 11/28)

Thursday, Nov. 25

9:00am Thanksgiving Mass

Parish Office CLOSED (will reopen 11/27)

Friday, Nov. 24

Parish Office CLOSED (will reopen 11/27)

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading: Proverbs 31:10-13, 19-20, 30-31

An encomium for a good and worthy wife, this passage from Proverbs extols all the virtues which a worthy wife possesses – fidelity, industriousness, skill, charity to the poor, and fear of the Lord.

Second Reading: 1 Thessalonians 5:1-6

Once again, Paul reassures the Thessalonians, who are anxious about the coming of Christ, that they need not fear being unprepared because they are "children of light."

Gospel: Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus narrates the parable of the talents – in the story, the silver pieces given to the three men. Two of the men invest their coins and double their worth, but the third buries his coins in the ground and earns no return. The message of Jesus is that we must use to the fullest the talents we have received.

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP SUNDAY 11/5: \$9,503.50

Sanctuary Candle for the week of 11/19-25: In
loving memory of Jerry Keyek (requested by
Bernadine Keyek)

Altar Wine for the month of November: In
loving memory of Jerry Keyek (requested by
Bernadine Keyek)



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

PRIME TIMERS NEWS

• **PRIME TIMERS CHRISTMAS LUNCHEON** will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel on December 5, 2017 from 11:30 am-3:30 pm. Cost: Members \$20.00 Guests \$25.00. Please contact Billie & Mike Resch @ 610.775.3927, 822 Blue Gate Lane, Reading, PA 19608 for more information.

The Polish American Heritage Association of Berks County is holding their 13th annual Polish Christmas Eve Wigilia Dinner on Dec.17 at the Stirling Guest Hotel, 1120 Centre Avenue. Doors open at 4:15PM. Full open bar from 4:30 to 5:30PM followed by the sharing of the Christmas wafer, dinner, singing of koledy, dessert, coffee and tea. Members: \$50. Non-members: \$60. For more information and reservations, call Henry Pruski at 610-372-1279 after 7PM. The deadline is December 11th. Santa Claus will be visiting the Polish American Cultural Center, Room 509, at the GoggleWorks, 201 Washington St. on Sunday, December 3, from 1-3PM.

SIMBANG GABI (9 Day Novena Masses)

December 8, Fri to December 16, Sat
Holy Rosary Church 7 pm

3rd and Franklin St, Reading, Pa 19602
Potluck nights: Dec. 8, 15 and 16

CHRISTMAS SEASON Mass, Party and Potluck:

December 30, 2017, Sat at 7 pm.

Mass intentions are accepted at Holy Rosary Religious Residence at 237 Franklin Street, Reading, PA 19602 or call Sr. Marietta Castellano at 610.301.3051.



Opportunity House Needs Blankets and Towels

Opportunity House recently sent a call for slightly used blankets and towels. With the cold weather on its way clients at the shelter can put any donations you can spare to good use. You can drop off blankets and towels at any time at the shelter (430 N 2nd Street Reading, PA 19601). Any questions can be directed to Julia VanTine, Volunteer Coordinator at Opportunity House (610.374.4696 Extension 227). Your generosity will be much appreciated. Thank you!



Our next meeting date is December 10th from 6:15-7:45 in the La Salle Cafe. All 8th-12th graders welcome! Please pray for us, and a successful venture as we participate in a weekend of serving those in need at the Kennedy House soup kitchen, this coming weekend.

Berks Catholic News

• **Christmas Vespers-** December 17th in the Franco Post Auditorium from 4pm. Admission is free.

• **Saints Shoot Out and Cheerleading Clinic-** December 27, 2017- 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 28, 2018 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. Open House is an exciting and unique experience seeing the Berks Catholic community come together.

Theology of the Body – The Beauty of Love.

The Office of Adult Formation invites you to join us for our final seminar, which will delve into Pope Saint John Paul II's groundbreaking teaching known as the Theology of the Body! This seminar will discuss the different vocations of love that we are all called to and will show how each points to our ultimate end in God's loving embrace. Taking place on Saturday, Dec. 2, from 9:30 to 11:30am at St. Mary Parish in Kutztown, this seminar is for anyone recognizing the need for a restored relationship with God, others, and the created world. Attendance at the previous sessions is not required. The presenter will be William Hamant, Ph.D. of DeSales University. Register today for \$20 at www.allentowndiocese.org/icf. For questions contact the Office of Adult Formation at 610.289.8900, Ext. 2021 or email adultformation@allentowndiocese.org



Knights of Columbus – News

On October 16, the Knights held their first **Poker Night**. All of the participants had a great time. Glenn Camardese was the big winner. Way to go, Glenn!

Holy Name Council 7179 would like to welcome our newest Knight – **Peter Prydybasz**. Peter has committed himself to the principles of the First Degree of The Order – Charity. We look forward to his participation in our many social and charitable events.

The Knights will be holding a **breakfast fundraiser at Mangia's Restaurant** on Sunday; December 10 between 9:00 AM and Noon. Please stop by after the 8:30 Mass or plan to come to breakfast early before going to the 10:30 Mass. It has been hinted that a man in a red suit may stop by. Please check future Bulletins for further details.

Our Council has created a new **Facebook Page!** This page highlights some of our activities and provides a schedule of upcoming events. Please visit our page at "Knights of Columbus Holy Name Council 7179"

Remember we are always seeking the fellowship of Catholic men and their families. Please see a Knight for more information on our charitable and social works.

Holy Name Class of 1968 50th Reunion
Save the Date June 2, 2018. Information to follow.
Pre registration - call or email to:
luciawagner84@gmail.com 610.777.5917

The Feast of our Lady of Guadalupe will be celebrated at the Santander Arena on Tuesday December 12th. The Solemn Mass will be celebrated in the evening beginning at 6:00PM followed by the fiesta. (Las Mañanitas begin at 4:30AM.) The official novena, organized by the Guadalupe Committee, and prayed in churches, will be held on December 4-7 at St. Joseph Church and continues at St. Margaret Church the evenings of December 8-11. The novena is celebrated in Spanish. Unless advised otherwise, all evening services will begin at 6:30PM. Everyone is welcome to honor the patroness of the Americas.

Notre Dame of Bethlehem Catholic Church is sponsoring a FREE concert, featuring world-renowned Catholic singer, Donna Cori Gibson on Sunday, Nov. 19 at 7 pm in the Church. Donna will present a "Sing of Mary" Concert to celebrate the 100th anniversary of Our Lady's apparitions at Fatima. You can get her free music downloads, hear samples and view videos at www.DonnaCoriGibson.com. Please invite your friends and family to join in this evening of beautiful music honoring our Blessed Mother in such a unique way! *(There will be a free-will offering at the concert.)*

Berks Catholic High School is accepting Applications for the 2018-2019 School Year. Please contact Nicky Smith to schedule a personal tour, receive an Application packet or to schedule a "Saint for a Day" visit. All inquiries are confidential.
nsmith@berkscatholic.org or 610.374.8361 ext.244

YOU ARE NOT ALONE

If a Prenatal Diagnosis identifies a possible disability...You are not alone. There is help. The Diocese of Allentown has a network of concerned parents and professionals who have experienced or worked closely with issues surrounding a poor prenatal diagnosis. For support, contact: Sr. Janice Marie Johnson at 610.289.8900x42 or jjohnson@allentowndiocese.org

Overcoming Homelessness Internationally

Parish Outreach through 1,000 \$1.00 Donations



Close to 85 million people around the world have been made homeless by natural disaster and conflict. Our family of faith has an opportunity to help Shelter Box change this. Shelter Box is a 100% volunteer organization, founded in 2002 by a British Rotarian who wanted to bring dignity to people who have lost everything, home, job, and all their belongings. Rotary International provides 50% of the budget and 50% comes from private citizens. Shelter Box responds to 25 to 30 disasters a year, often to multiple disasters at once.

For \$1000.00 a green Shelter Box, that includes a durable tent that can house a family of ten for at least six months, water purification materials, portable shower materials, curtains to provide separate privacy areas among different generations within the family, mosquito nets or hats, scarves, gloves, is delivered directly to the distressed area that has been struck by a natural disaster (earthquake, tsunami, flood, volcano) or act of violence or war. The family keeps the tent forever. Shelter Box has no cost for labor, because volunteers do all the labor, including the packing, loading, shipping, delivering and setting up. All boxes are shipped and delivered to their destination usually within 48 hours.

Throughout the next year, JAM will periodically sponsor a collection of \$1.00 donations until our parish total reaches \$1,000.00. **Initial contributions can be placed in the Poor Box near the church entrances the weekend of November 18-19.** When sufficient funds are donated, St. John Parish will then send \$1000.00 to Shelter Box who will then issue a tracking number so we parishioners can track our box, where and when it is sent and delivered. Our parish name will be printed on the box so the recipients know from where and from whom their tent came. To learn more about Shelter Box go to www.ShelterBoxUSA.org or speak to Sue Goodwin, Arlene Seeber, or Deb Seidl.



Remember: Poor Box for Shelter Box November 18-19
\$1.00 X 1,000 = 1 Shelter Box



SUNDAY CONNECTION

Gospel Reading

Matthew 25:14-30

Jesus tells the parable of the talents, in which he teaches about the importance of using the gifts that God has given to us in service to the Kingdom of Heaven.

Family Connection

In today's Gospel, Jesus talks about the correlation between faithfulness and responsibilities. Family life provides many opportunities to illustrate this connection for children. As children prove themselves trustworthy, they can be trusted to take on greater responsibilities. Jesus teaches us in this parable that when we show ourselves to be trustworthy in small matters, we can be trusted to participate in greater matters of responsibility.

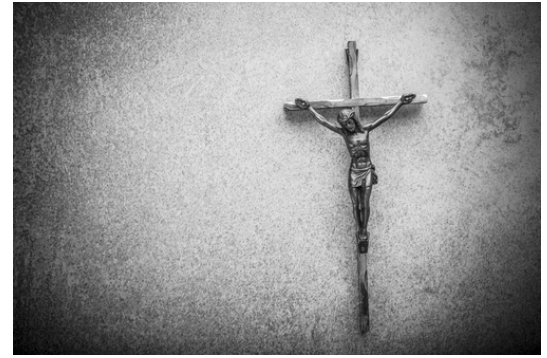
As you gather as a family, take some time to recall how each child in the family has matured and can now be trusted with greater responsibilities.

Say: In today's Gospel, Jesus talked about how our trustworthiness in small matters shows that we can also be trusted to share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven. Read Matthew 15:14-30. Say: We share in the work of serving the Kingdom of Heaven when we use our talents to help and serve others.

As a family, choose one thing to do this week to serve others. Conclude in prayer together, asking God's help so that your family may serve others more faithfully.

Why Do Catholics Display the Crucifix?

When Catholics look at a crucifix, they see the God who became man and suffered, just as we do. The following are common human sufferings that Jesus endured and how his suffering can help us to bear our own.



Nothing quite says “Catholic” like a crucifix. They are attached to rosary beads, displayed in Catholic churches and homes and occasionally worn as jewelry. Catholics are often accused of “putting Jesus back on the cross,” but nothing could be farther from the truth. When Catholics look at a crucifix, they see the God who became man and suffered, just as we do. The following are common human sufferings that Jesus endured and how his suffering can help us to bear our own.

Trouble with Friends

During his agony in the garden of Gethsemane, Jesus’ hand-picked friends fell asleep. All of them fled when he was arrested. His chosen leader of the Apostles, Peter, denied him three times; and only John, Mary Magdalene and his mother were courageous enough to keep him company at the foot of the cross.

When we have trouble with friends who are disloyal or distant, especially during trials, we can look at the crucifix and see that Jesus felt this same emotion. When we pray to him, we know that he understands exactly what we are enduring.

Physical Suffering

The human condition involves much physical suffering, some of it quite severe. Whether you suffer from cancer, arthritis, or other assorted aches and pains, temporary or long-term, you can always turn to Jesus for understanding.

Just looking at what a crucifix means and the number of wounds inflicted on our Savior can give one a perspective of what it is to suffer physically. Pray to Jesus for healing or to be able to bear your suffering. He knows how it feels.

Humiliation

Jesus was forced to endure multiple humiliations. He was scourged, mocked, spat upon and stripped naked. The very same people who had sung his praises on Palm Sunday a few days earlier, were now crying out for his death. Just look at the crucifix—our God was treated as a common criminal and executed in the most painful and humiliating manner possible.

Yet, he turned this into the greatest good, rising from the dead and saving us from our sins, granting us the gift of eternal life. When you feel humiliated and discouraged, turn to Jesus in prayer, knowing he has empathy for your suffering.

Abandonment by God

Even the most faithful Christians sometimes feel as if God has forgotten them. When it seems as if our prayers are not being heard, we can turn to the crucifix and remember the words Jesus cried, “*My God, my God, why have you forsaken me?*” (Matthew 27:46)

This was not a cry of despair—Jesus knew that God was still present; but he was in fact quoting the opening of Psalm 22, which begins in agony and ends in a burst of glory. Read the entire Psalm and realize that God is always with you and hears your every prayer. Yet, like Jesus, you may have to suffer before the prayer is answered.

The Everyday Burdens of Life

Sometimes the demands of life can feel like heavy burdens, weighing us down and causing misery. The crucifix brings us hope. Like Jesus, we must bear our cross, but none is as heavy as his.

Although he warns that we must “*pick up your cross and follow me,*” (Matthew 16:24), he also comforts us: “*Take up my yoke upon you and learn from me, for I am meek and humble of heart; and you will find rest for yourselves. For my yoke is easy, and my burden light.*” (Matthew 11:29-30)

Our God knows what it feels like to carry a heavy cross, both literally and metaphorically, but he will always be there to carry it with us.