



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. **DEC. 11-** St. Damasus I
The Lucas Family
TUESDAY, 7:00 p.m. **DEC. 12** – Our Lady of Guadalupe
Domenica Illiano
WEDNESDAY, 8:00 a.m. **DEC. 13** – St. Lucy
Helen Koehler
THURSDAY, 7:00 p.m. **DEC. 14** – St. John of the Cross
Al Basti
FRIDAY, 8:00 a.m. **DEC. 15** – Advent Weekday
Jim Consoli



SUNDAY, 8:30 a.m. **THIRD SUNDAY OF ADVENT**
10:30 a.m. **SATURDAY, DEC. 16**
4:00 p.m. Deacon Cy Simchick
DEC. 17
People of the Parish
Walter Singley

UPCOMING LITURGICAL MINISTERS

SATURDAY, DEC. 16 - 4:00PM

Lector: Bernadette Yohn
Cantor: Sue Gallen
Servers: Mark Stone, Seth & Lydia Toal
EM: T.Cuba, J/B.Peters, B/M.Resch, ME. Symanski,
M.Melniczek, B.Yohn

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 - 8:30AM

Lector: Amy Dodrer
Cantor: Alex Krick
Servers: Joseph Giesen, Ben & Matt Mulholland

SUNDAY, DEC. 17 - 10:30AM

Lector: Adam Krick
Cantor: Mary McDevitt
Servers: Sara Teson, Madison Cannon, Chloe Ritter
EM: M.DePaul, T.Cannon, A.Seeber, C.Bensing,
A/C.Turnbaugh, L.Fox, T.Ritter

Sanctuary Candle for the week of 12/10-16: In loving memory of Stephen Kolson (requested by Dorothy Kolson)

UPCOMING EVENTS

Sunday, Dec. 10

6:15 pm Youth Group
6:30 pm Rel. Ed Classes

Tuesday, Dec. 12

7:00 pm RCIA
7:30 pm Charismatic Group

Friday, Dec. 15

6:00 pm Choir rehearsal
6:30 pm La Salle's Christmas Program

TODAYS READINGS

First Reading: Isaiah 40:1-5, 9-11

Isaiah emphasizes that from the desert to the mountains, all people must prepare for "the glory of the Lord to be revealed." Rather than looking only at God's power, Isaiah focuses on God's kindness, comparing it to a shepherd who feeds and cares for his flock.

Second Reading: 2 Peter 3:8-14

For those who are impatient for the Second Coming, Peter explains that time is different to God than to people. He reminds them that they should be grateful for the extra time to prepare, and concentrate on striving to become all that God would want them to be.

Gospel: Mark 1:1-8

In this passage, John the Baptist stressed the importance of the coming of the Messiah. He acknowledged that he was only the messenger, and unfit to "stoop and untie his sandal straps." John urged them to prepare for one far holier than he, who would walk among them.

Away from home? Find a Mass wherever you are at www.masstimes.org

WEEKLY STEWARDSHIP
SUNDAY 11/26: \$ 10,783.05



Altar Bread & Altar Wine for the month of December: In loving memory of Gabriel "Gibby" Nore (requested by the Louise Nore)

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



THE ADVENT LIFELINE GIVING TREE

is now up and filled with Snowflake ornaments and will be running throughout Advent. Our Church Family is asked to share in the spirit of giving that Christmas brings to help Lifeline of Berks County replenish their Pantry of supplies which serves babies, mothers and their families this Christmas and throughout the year. Please choose a snowflake ornament from the tree which will have a label containing a needed baby item. Bring the new **UNWRAPPED** gift to the Fr. Lyons Room and place it in the **BLUE TUB** marked **Lifeline**. We ask that **you return the snowflake ornament** with your gift so we can reuse it next year. Please place checks (Made out to **Lifeline of Berks County**) in a sealed envelope marked **Lifeline Donation**. For more information, please call Bob Peters 610.775.8965. Thank you!



ST JOHN'S CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP

Our annual Christmas cookie swap will take place on the weekend of 12/16 & 17 at all the masses. Here is how it works. You bring 2 dozen cookies to the Father Lyons room before you attend mass. After mass you then can select 2 dozen cookies from all those brought. Please bring a container for the cookies you have chosen. Questions, call Lois at 610.777.2542.

Benefit Concert for the Missionary Sisters of the Precious Blood: "Constantia" (choir from the Philadelphia Korean Catholic Church) will take place on December 10, 2017 at 3 PM at Precious Blood Convent, 1094 Welsh Rd. Shillington. There will be a Silent Auction after the concert.



Our next meeting date is December 10th from 6:15-7:45 in the La Salle Cafe. All 8th-12th graders welcome!



CAROLING AT MIFFLIN HEALTH CARE CENTER

We have been invited to share our Caroling voices at the Mifflin Health Care center on Friday evening December 15 at 7 PM. Those interested should meet at the Mifflin Court Assisted Living Center at 6:45 PM. Come join in the singing.

HOST FAMILIES NEEDED

"AnB Education is looking for host families for our international students attending Berks Catholic High School. A generous stipend is provided. Call AnB Education 267-263-2481 or email hosting@anbeducation.com. The application is online at www.anbeducation.us."

Wreaths Across America - December 16th

Families and volunteers are invited to join American Heritage Girls and Troops of St George to participate in laying wreaths on veteran graves at Forest Hills Memorial Park. There will be a short ceremony with keynote speaker Dr. Michael Gambone. Ceremony begins promptly at Noon on Saturday 12/16 at 390 W. Neversink Rd. Reading, PA 19606.

Women's Heart Attack & Disease Survivors Support Group Monthly Meeting.

St. Ignatius School – Room "C", 2710 Saint Albans Drive, West Lawn, PA 19609. Starting January 11, 2018 @ 7:00 and every second Thursday thereafter. For more information email: HeartSisters111@gmail.com or Chrissy - 484.955.4372 or Bev - 610.781.5557



Enjoy a meal and help raise money for St. John's new Shrine for Life!

St. John's Knights of Columbus Council 7179 is sponsoring a Breakfast at Mangia! Italian Restaurant as a fundraiser to help pay the costs of the Church's inspirational Shrine for Life erected on the hillside between the Church and the La Salle Academy.

Join the Knights, fellow parishioners and their guests at this event. It is open to everyone, so please invite others to dine with you. All you must do is buy food or beverages. The restaurant will automatically donate 10% of your entire purchase to this fundraiser. Please join us in welcoming our new Shrine.

Join us after the 8:30 Mass or come early and have breakfast before the 10:30 Mass. There is a roomer that there will be a visit from Saint Nick himself.



DATE: Sunday, December 10, 2017

PLACE: 322 E. Wyomissing Ave, Mohnton - 1 mile, 3 minutes from Church
Ask any Knight for additional information!



ST. JOHN'S CHRISTMAS FESTIVITIES

Breaking Bread will be hosting a full weekend of activities on December 16th & 17th in the Father Lyons room.

- The **CHRISTMAS COOKIE SWAP** will take place after each mass. You bring 2 dozen cookies before mass and go home with 2 dozen cookies from those brought by others.
- A **COFFEE TEA AND COOKIES** social will be held after each of the masses on Saturday December 16th and Sunday December 17th.
- After the 10:30 AM mass there will be a contest featuring the "**UGLIEST CHRISTMAS SWEATER**". So dig out your sweater gift from uncle Harry that you have kept in a drawer a couple of years and enjoy the fun.
- There will also be a "**NAME THAT CAROL**" game after the 10:30 AM mass.

Breaking Bread wishes you a very **Merry Christmas** with many **Blessings!!!**

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.

St. Benedict Parish 6th Annual Advent Vespers Festival of Carols and Lessons

When: Sunday, December 17, 2017

Time: 6:00PM

Where: St. Benedict Parish

2020 Chestnut Hill Road
Mohnton (Plowville) PA, 19560

Please join our Parish Choir, under the direction of Andrew Angstadt, as we prepare our hearts for the birth of Jesus Christ. During this season of running around, let us take a moment and reflect on the true meaning of the season. Join us for scriptures and music that will fill your spirits! Our Parish Choir will be joined with a professional String Quartet, many of our lectors and our Women's Club will be providing refreshments for all who attend. O come all ye faithful!!



Catholic Social Teaching on International Homelessness

According to the United Nations, more than 65 million people around the world are forcibly displaced from their homes due to persecution, war or violence. Over half are under the age of 18. 23 million qualify as refugees and only 1% are resettled each year.

United States Conference of Catholic Bishops

Bishop Joe S. Vásquez of Austin, Texas, chairman of the Committee on Migration, U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, has stated: "Given this extraordinary level of suffering, the U.S. Catholic Bishops will redouble their support for, and efforts to protect, all who flee persecution and violence, as just one part of the perennial and global work of the Church in this area of concern...The United States has long provided leadership in resettling refugees. We believe in assisting all those who are vulnerable and fleeing persecution, regardless of their religion. This includes Christians, as well as Yazidis and Shia Muslims from Syria, Rohingyas from Burma, and other religious minorities. However, we need to protect all our brothers and sisters of all faiths, including Muslims, who have lost family, home, and country. They are children of God and are entitled to be treated with human dignity. We believe that by helping to resettle the most vulnerable, we are living out our Christian faith as Jesus has challenged us to do." (January 27, 2017)

Pope Francis

"The issue of migration is not one that can leave some countries indifferent, while others are left with the burden of humanitarian assistance, often at the cost of notable strain and great hardship, in the face of an apparently unending emergency. All should feel responsible for jointly pursuing the international common good, also through concrete gestures of human solidarity; these are essential building-blocks of that peace and development which entire nations and millions of people still await." (Address to the Diplomatic Corps Accredited to the Holy See January 9, 2017)



Overcoming Homelessness Internationally Parish Reaches \$1,000.00 in Donations

With overwhelming gratitude Justice in Action Ministry sends a heartfelt "Thank You!" to all those who made donations to the Shelter Box project. JAM is delighted to report that through the generosity of our family of faith the needed \$1000.00 collection is complete. Special thanks goes to a most generous donor in particular.

Before sending our parish donation, we made contact with Shelter Box USA and learned that their campaign for support has been exceptionally successful. Since June 30 there has been a backlog of 1600 -1800 Shelter Boxes in storage. Shelter Box USA has discovered that not every emergency situation calls for a full box, but may desperately need particular materials, such as 1,000 mosquito nets, or a School in a Box for a Syrian refugee camp or a complete water filtration system to a disaster zone. Consequently Shelter Box no longer allocates donations specifically for green boxes and has discontinued their policy of tracking a donated box. Shelter Box USA assures us that they will use our donation of \$1000.00 wherever the need is greatest, ensuring that they can respond with the most appropriate solution and mobilize and respond instantly while giving families aid that is 100% correct and what is needed to begin rebuilding their lives.



For more details on Shelter Box contact Cathy Klettke at Shelter Box USA: 941.907.6036 x101 or cklettke@shelterboxusa.org. Any additional donations can be made payable to Shelter Box USA and mailed to 7359 Merchant Court Lakewood Ranch, FL 34240

CULTURE OF LIFE LIFELINE OF BERKS COUNTY

Throughout the many years since Lifeline was created, you, the parishioners of St. John's, have generously supported Lifeline's Mission as a Pregnancy Crisis/Help Center with your monetary donations for their Mother's Day Carnation Sale and Baby Bottles for Life fundraisers, as well as taking an ornament before Christmas from their Annual Advent Giving Tree and providing numerous baby gifts which help to furnish their Pantry.

As the Board President, I'd like to tell you about Lifeline, how it upholds the God-given dignity of life and how very vital you are to its existence and growth.

Lifeline is a Pregnancy Crisis/Help Center located in West Reading that provides life-affirming services to women in Berks County who are facing an unexpected or unplanned pregnancy. They bring Christ's Love to women and educate them about their options and provide support and hope, empowering them to choose healthy lifestyles and life-embracing alternatives to abortion.

The following services are provided **FREE**: Pregnancy test, Ultrasounds for qualified clients, Help with decision making, Medical referral, Emergency diaper, formula and baby clothes, Drug and alcohol counseling referral, Adoption information; Housing referral, Insurance information, Pregnancy education, Maternity clothes, Breast feeding help and Parenting preparation.

Lifeline is an expression of Christ's Love and Healing in our community, therefore, all clients, their families, staff, donors, volunteers and the public-at-large are treated with kindness and compassion. They give unconditional, confidential and non-judgmental support to any woman faced with an unexpected pregnancy, to the baby's father and any member of the family regardless of race, income, color or creed. This support remains ongoing throughout the pregnancy and beyond.

When an expectant mother chooses Life for her baby, the two overriding needs become counseling and support, learning parenting skills and needed baby supplies. To address these needs, Lifeline has a Program called Earn While You Learn. This Program is designed to reward Learning, foster Responsibility and nurture Relationships with young women. By attending counseling and classes on parenting the women earn Mommy Money paper-credit points; they are proud of their accomplishments and eager to learn, and the more they learn, the more credits they receive; they then use their Mommy Money credits toward purchasing an item in the Pantry, it is their Choice and Responsibility. The Program is very successful!

Lifeline depends on our Family of Faith for financial, material and prayerful support as well as volunteers to help continue their Mission of service to women of need.

This Advent, Lifeline will once again ask our Family of Faith to support their Annual Giving Tree project which will help replenish their Pantry. Details will be in the Church Bulletin.

If you want to volunteer at Lifeline and their Mission of Love, please contact Stephanie Giles, Executive Director 610.374.8545, or Bob Peters, Board President 610.775.8965