

**July 27, 2025 – Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – July 26<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Intentions of Dolores Bonk – Birthday (Senior Family)

**Sunday – July 27<sup>th</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Special Intention (Ted/Janet Achuff)

**Monday – July 28<sup>th</sup> – Weekday –**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Tuesday – July 29<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Martha, Mary & Lazarus**

9AM: Intentions of Dolores Bonk (Mary Scolavino)

**Wednesday – July 30<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop**

9:00AM: Walenty Brzuska (Mariola Pratt)

**Thursday – July 31<sup>st</sup> – Weekday – St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Aug 1<sup>st</sup> – Weekday – St. Alphonsus Liguori, Bishop**

9:00AM: Texas Flood Victims & Family (Parish Community)

**Saturday – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> – Weekday – St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop**

9:00AM Souls in Purgatory (Helfant Family)

**Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life!**

Lynda Stefanski, Peter Libasci, Joseph Bonk, Tom Trotter, Dave Blessing, Jeff Olimpo, Matt Sebastiano, Maria Middleton, Fern & John Gibson, William Merkle, Russ Funkhouser, Joseph Jones, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Andrew Schlotter, Bethany Steinberg, Joann Thaler, Julie Petry, Steven Fusco, Greg Gambino, Patrick D. Brown, Douglas Defreest, Jr., Benny LoScalzo, Steve Ombalski, Jane Burger, Ginny LaBar, Michael Gawronski, Marciano Alves Viera, Bernadette Maszczak, Shawn Kelly, Beth Collins, Nikia Helfant Messier, Anthony Libasci, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

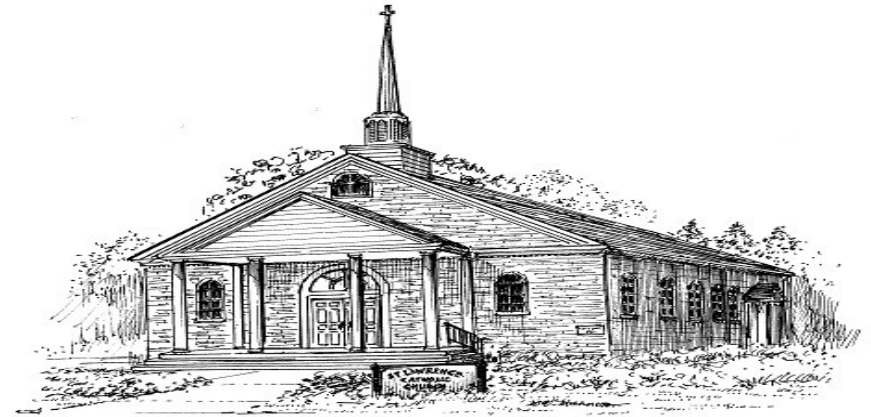
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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[Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org](http://Website:saint-Lawrence-church.org)



**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM, 12 Noon & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday Readings & Communion Distribution Only.

**Eucharistic Adoration:** Wednesday @ 9:30AM – 11AM

**Confessions:** Saturday @ 3:30PM - 4:30PM @ Church. Via Appointment - Contact Rectory

**Holy Name Society:** Meets Monthly; Second Monday @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall (Sept – May)

**Altar Rosary Society:** Meets Monthly; Second Thursday @ 7PM (Sept – May)

**Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes:** Meets Monthly, First Saturday Following the 9AM Mass in Ceader Hall.

**Marthas & Marys Ministry:** Faith based group, meets First Thurs. @ 11:30AM @ Ceader Hall

**Weddings:** Contact Rectory for Details. Plans Preferred Minimum 6 Months in Advance.

**Parish PREP Classes & New Parishoners:** Contact Rectory via Phone or email.

**Rectory Office:** Mon-Fri @ 9:30AM – 12 noon

## Pastor's Corner! July 27, 2025

Last week, I was watching the Movie, *Raiders of the Lost Ark*, for the zillionth time. I love action movies. As much as I enjoy this movie, I am always disappointed in all of the characters. All of them (the bad guys, as well as the good guys) want the Ark for the wrong reason. Hitler and the Nazis want it because they believe, if they come in possession of it, they can use its power to conquer the world. The Americans (who don't understand or believe that it is God who has the power, not inanimate objects like clay tablets or a staff)) want it for no other reason than to prevent Hitler from possessing it. In their mind, it is an intimate object, which they end up placing in a crate in a huge warehouse never to be uncovered again. The hero of the story, Indiana Jones, dismisses its sacred background and considers it the crowning achievement of his Archeological Career. Along with his colleagues at the University, he believes it should have an honored place in a museum of great stature. Even after Indiana Jones witnesses the extermination of all the Nazis who opened the Ark, he continues his atheistic ways. It is Hollywood at its atheistic best, referring to God and characters who believe in God when it serves their story, but never....never actually acknowledging the legitimacy of God's existence. To do so, would mean that Hollywood would have to acknowledge God's value and moral direction.

Today's 1<sup>st</sup> Reading and Gospel, focuses on the core of every love-relationship; namely,

being honest, respectful, humble and sharing. Party "A" talks, Party "B" listens; then Party "B" speaks and Party "A" listens. This rhythm continues until both parties are in sync. Sometimes it is a joyful way of confirming one's love for each other; other times it is scary, painful and humbling, but both parties will embrace those experiences out of love for the other and because above all, they treasure the gift of their relationship. Reflect on the 1<sup>st</sup> Reading. Abraham & Sarah, along with all of their servants have stopped in the midst of their travels in the region of Sodom and Gomorrah. These are people whose character is reflected in their total lack of respect for anyone, their cruelty, their gross hedonism and their cowardliness. They do not care what anyone thinks of them; they want what they want. Not surprisingly, they behave that way towards Abraham, Sarah and their party. With this, God has had enough. He intends to destroy the people of Sodom and Gomorrah, but wants Abraham and his party to have an opportunity to escape the coming wrath. Being the good man that Abraham is, he attempts to intercede for the peoples of these two cities. I don't know if I would have had the courage to challenge God the number of times that Abraham does with God. But he does, and in doing so, He moves God from destroying two whole cities to sparing those two cities if Abraham can find just ten good citizens. That's a heck of lot of praying and listening on both party's part; but it goes on until the issue is resolved. Why? Because both parties are **honest, respectful** and **humble**. These are

the ways in which they extend their love to each other.

When we reflect on the today's Gospel, a similar dynamic is in play; namely, *persistence*. Wonderfully, it is Jesus Himself who is advocating it. *"And I tell you, ask and you will receive; seek and you will find; knock and the door will be opened to you. For everyone who asks, receives; the one who seeks, finds; and to the one who knocks, the door will be open."* These are the words of one who wants to be in a love-relationship with us. They are the words of a God who is patient, who cares and who will listen; and who expects that our love for Him will also be characterize by genuine love on our part; by a willingness to listen to Him with trust, humility and gratitude. These are the things that should always characterize our personal relationship with God and our prayer-life. When they are, we can expect that these very same responses will characterize Our Lord's answers to us. Your brother in Christ



**Collections:** July 20<sup>th</sup> Parish @ \$2434, Poor Box @ \$80. Thank You.

**Taco Night Saturday, July 26** following the 5PM Mass in Ceadar Hall.

**175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Celebration:** St. Peter's Lutheran Church, Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> @ Riegelsville Borough Park, **Noon -4PM**. All invited. Family-friendly Bring your own lawn chair.

**What's holding you back?** Most probably you are an active Catholic, and because you are, this question doesn't apply to you, as much as it does to another. We ask it, because in all likelihood, it applies to someone you know. No doubt there are people in your life who would find life in the Catholic Church a real blessing. Without doubt, they would be a blessing to the Catholic Church. It is likely that there have been a few moments when they considered the idea of becoming a Catholic, but dismissed it. Perhaps, they felt they would be lost in the complex size of the Church. Perhaps the imperfections & sins of the Church turned them off. Perhaps, the commitment that the Church looks for from its members scares them. Perhaps, they feel they would not be able to grasp its teachings. As an active Catholic you know better! Yes, we are big! Yes, as an imperfect & sinful Church while we teach perfection and condemn what is wrong. Yes, we believe the Lord looks for us to be committed to following His *New Way*! With all respect for these concerns, tell them "You have to get past that". Share your belief with them that they would be happy in the Church and that they would be a blessing to the Church. Encourage them to make an act of faith by becoming a person of Faith. Let them know that you believe God's Holy Spirit is calling them. Then guide them to St. Lawrence's RCIA program. **Tuesday evening classes {7-8 PM} start September 9, 2025 and concludes March 31, 2026.** Additional info can be found by consulting the **orange** hand-outs located in the vestibule of the church; visiting the Parish website at **[saint-lawrence-church.org](http://saint-lawrence-church.org)** or contacting Fr. Benn through parish office.