

June 8, 2025 – Pentecost Sunday

Saturday – June 7th – Vigil Mass

5:00PM Special Intention (Senior Family)

Sunday – June 8th – Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM: Ruby Williams (Steinberg Family)

Monday – June 9th – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

9AM: Intentions of Philo Correia – Birthday

Tuesday – June 10th - Weekday

9AM: Pope Lo XIV (Fr. Benn)

Wednesday – June 11th – St. Barnabas, Apostle

9:00AM: Joseph Aquilino (Anna Fusco)

Thursday – June 12th – Weekday

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – June 13th - St. Anthony of Padua, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9:00AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Saturday – June 14th – Weekday

9:00AM Intentions of Sharon Affuso (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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence

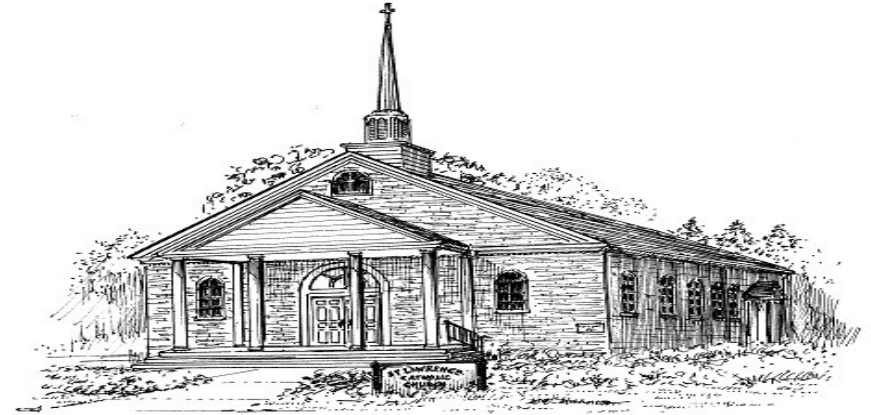
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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

[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 Minimun 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! June 8, 2025

Throughout the 3,000+ year old history of God's relationship with both the People of Israel and the followers of Jesus Christ, it was not unusual for God to announce His presence in dramatic ways: tremendous winds, earthquakes, storms, plagues, etc. Examples abound: when Moses would go up the mountain to meet with God, particularly when he received the Ten Commandments, the parting of the sea so that the Israelites could escape the pursuing Egyptian Army, the tremendous storm at sea into which Jonah was tossed overboard, Noah and "the Flood" which destroyed the world, the dramatic events that God performed through some of the Prophets, Jesus calming of the storm when the Apostles were convinced they were about to perish and Pentecost....the return of the crucified & resurrected Lord after He returned to the Father in the Ascension. While some of them were destructive and intended as punishment, like Sodom & Gomorrah, many were intended to get people's attention so that they would pay listen to what God wanted to share with them. No doubt, you have been in relationships where the person you wish to interact with never shuts up. They are constantly talking and never give you a chance to respond to their comments. Even when you have an opportunity to respond, you can tell from their body language that they are not listening to a thing you are sharing. They have already dismissed what you are saying and why. That is a

relationship that is doomed. In the Pentecost event, the Post-Resurrection Apostles are still uncertain as to what Our Lord expects of them; even if they do, they are frightened and scared of their spiritual shadow. It is not surprising that Our Lord gets their attention while they are praying in the Upper Room, site of the *Last Supper*. While the *"noise like a strong driving wind"* ; *"tongues as of fire, which parted and came to rest on each one of them"*; and their ability *"to speak in different tongues, as the Spirit enabled them to proclaim"* got everyone's attention, our essential focus should not be on the fact that everyone who heard them could understand them. The real gift of this moment wasn't that the Apostles could speak in languages they didn't know, nor that their listeners could understand these Galileans in their native tongue; **the awesomeness of this moment is that they could understand God in His own language.** The Holy Spirit was not there to be cosmic translator of languages; He was there to be present to those who disposed themselves to Him by assuming the attitude of humility, of becoming a person who owned his/her unworthiness and yet believed God still loved them despite their terrible shortcomings. For each of us, this should be the true lesson of Pentecost. The Apostles had spent weeks in that room since the Last Supper. They spent that time in reflection and prayer. Initially, much of that prayer and much of that reflection was about themselves, their fears, their desire for Jesus to return and make everything all better; basically, it was still about themselves. Only

after God forced each of them to own their shortcomings, their sins, their unfaithfulness, to assume the posture of LISTENING was He able to speak to them and unburden them of all the junk in their hearts that had prevented them from being able to take on the tasks that He would ask of each of them. Their ancient ancestors, the Israelites, wandered around in the desert wilderness for a long time, almost an entire generation. God would have let them wander around for another 40 years until they learned to focus on Him and above all to trust Him. I suspect that Our Lord would have let the Apostles cool their jets in the Upper Room for another 40 days after the Ascension, until they had the courage to be humble about themselves and have absolute trust in Him.

My sisters and brothers, the lesson of the Pentecost event is not so much about the Holy Spirit descending down upon us, as it is about what is required of each recipient to understand this gift, to recognize it and then have the humility and courage to follow it. On this Pentecost Sunday, each of us must examine ourselves and ask ourselves where are we in our relationship with the Master? Is our spiritual life characterized by being a person who is always talking at Our Lord, never giving Him a chance to get a word in edge-wise because we are afraid of what he will say to us, what He will ask of us; where He will take us? In other words, will we need another 40 days in the Upper Room? Orrrrrrrr..... have we reached that level of spiritual maturity, where we have the

courage to be humble about ourselves before Our Lord; yet, confident, that despite all of our faults, He still loves us and still desires to entrust us with the responsibility of spreading His Good News? Your brother in Christ,



Collections: June 1st Parish @ \$3251
Catholic Home Missions @ \$120,
Ascension Thursday @ \$240. Thank You.



Altar Rosary Trip to Philadelphia: Save the date Friday, June 20. Visiting: Old St. Mary's Church, Old St. Joseph's Church, Tour & Mass at the National Shrine of St. Rite of Cascia. Details will follow.

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, June 8 following the 9:30AM Mass. All invited.



Annual Parish Dinner: Tuesday, June 24 @ LaBella Via, 41 Third St., Phillipsburg, NJ. Cost \$20pp payable to: "The Holy Name Society", cash bar, soft drinks provided. RSVP by June 15. Forms in vestibule of Church.