

May 25, 2025 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday – May 24th – Vigil Mass

5:00PM Bernice Piecyk (Dolores Bonk)

Sunday – May 25th – Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM: Intentions of Bonnie Piecyk (Dolores Bonk)

Monday – May 26th – Easter Weekday – St. Philip Neri, Priest

9AM: Irene Pavlica (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Tuesday – May 27th – Easter Weekday – St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

9AM: Cecylia Brzuska (Mariola Pratt)

Wednesday – May 28th – Easter Weekday –

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

Thursday – May 29th – Easter Weekday – Ascension of The Lord – Holy Day

9:00AM: Intentions of Faith Marie Messier (Dolores Bonk)

12:00 Noon: Intentions of Pope Leo XIV

7PM: Intentions of Eric & Audrey Senior (Dolores Bonk)

Friday – May 30th – Easter Weekday –

9:00AM: Stephanie Babson (Dolores Bonk)

Saturday – May 31st – Easter Weekday – The Visitation of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9:00AM Pope Francis

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

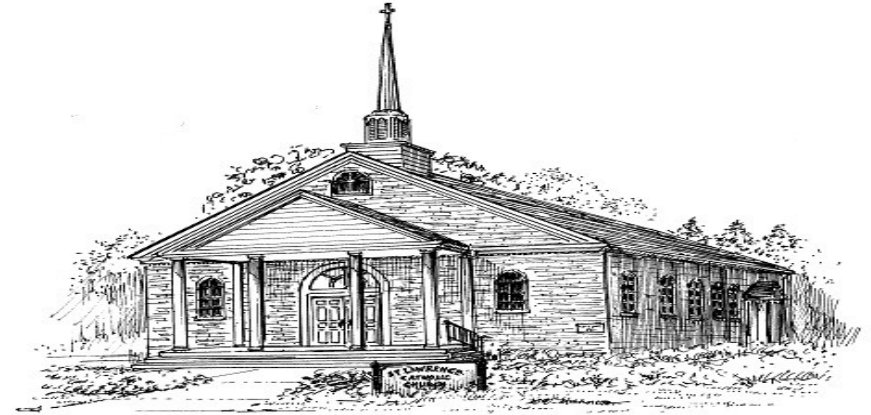
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

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! May 25, 2025

I would like to focus on this week's 1st Reading, from the *Acts of the Apostles*. As you are aware, the original followers of our Lord were all Jews, the vast majority of whom were faithful followers of Judaism. For them, Jesus Christ was the fulfillment of all the religious teachings and laws of the Jewish Church, which were to be trusted and strictly followed. Understandably, they understood themselves to be another branch of Judaism and expected everyone who desired to follow the teachings of Christ to embrace the traditions of Judaism. Many Gentiles converts to Christianity found this to be a real challenge, especially over issues which they considered non-essential. It became an obstacle to their conversion and a growing source of tension for the Jewish members of the Church who felt they were being asked to compromise their ancient beliefs. Today's 1st Reading reflects how the issue came to a head, when conservative Jewish converts, without consulting with the Apostles, insisted that Gentile converts must embrace Jewish Traditions, including circumcision. This would be the first major test of the Church's leadership and its reliance on the inspiration of Our Lord's Holy Spirit to resolve dilemmas in

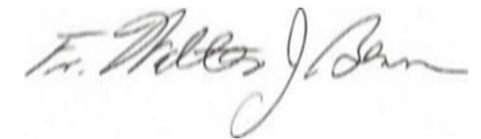
matters of Faith and Morals. Just as the Holy Father and the Bishops resolve issues in the church today, the ancient church sought the direction of the Holy Spirit through a combination of open discussions with all parties guided by prayer. I suspect it is safe to say that those discussions and sessions of prayer went on as long as it was necessary until they were certain of the solution. Was everyone happy with their decision? probably not. Yet, it is important that we notice their decision was in response to three basic factors: 1) A refusal by members to empathize with the difficulties of the Gentile experience. 2) A refusal by the conservative Jewish Christians to acknowledge that their demands were creating an unreasonable hardship for the Gentile converts, which contradicted the spirit of Our Lord's call to Love. 3) That the Church should not be locked into any particular religious tradition to the exclusion of other groups. We can see this in the instructions which the Apostles and elders in Jerusalem outlined for the Gentile Christians: "*It is the decision of the Holy Spirit and of us not to place on you any burden beyond these necessities; namely, to abstain from meat sacrificed to idols, from blood, from meat of strangled animals and from unlawful marriage. If you keep free of these you will be doing what is right.*"

Farewell." Basically, they are instructing them **not** to do anything that was associated with the Pagan culture of the times, or cause confusion by associating with them. If they were reminding the Jewish Christians that the Lord intended for the Church to be inclusive, i.e., *Universal*; it was also impressing upon the Gentile Christians that they have an obligation to inspire the people around them with their Christ-like life style, and not to scandalize anyone. Their job was to inspire people towards Christ, not create confusion.

As Catholic Christians, this experience is very important for us to remember. We live in a world that is quite comfortable in *compromising* in the bad sense of the word. If something is inconvenient, wrong or doesn't suit one's agenda, they feel they have the right to change the rules. We also live in a world that has suddenly turned extremely intolerant. There is no effort or intention by many to work at resolving differences or disagreements. The immediate response to someone or some group who disagrees with another is to scream, accuse, slander, alarm and basically portray the other person/group as a threat, unfaithful and someone undeserving of respect. When one feels threatened by such behavior or has been

wounded by it, it is natural to want to hurt back. Both as individuals and as a Church, we must be ready to do the difficult thing and choose to trust in the power of God's Love. Isn't this the very reason we loved Pope Francis and are excited about Pope Leo XIV? They are men who lead by insisting that all our decisions must be the product of *prayer, respect and compassion*. We will probably feel ill-equipped to handle the issue; it will take longer to resolve, and we will definitely have the scars to show for it, **but** in the end, God's goodness will always resolve the issue.

Your Brother in Christ,



Collections: May 18 & 25 reporting June 1st
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



Strategic Planning- Parish Session at St. Lawrence Parish

The Parish info Session with regards to the AOP's *Strategic Planning Initiative*, will take place this Tuesday (6:30PM > 8:30 PM) May 27th in Ceader Hall. This presentation will be facilitated by Brenner LaCompte of the Catholic Leadership Institute. It represents a great opportunity for parishioners to gain insights into the "What's" and "Why's" that has inspired the AOP's decision to begin the Strategic Process. It will also offer parishioners an opportunity to express how they understand Church, especially as we celebrate it in Upper Bucks County. By way of preparation, you are encouraged to read Archbishop Perez's pastoral letter *An Invitation from Archbishop Perez*. Copies can be found in the vestibule of the Church, on the parish website {saint-lawrence-church.org} or

the website of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia (AOP). {archphila.org}.



Feast of the Ascension of Our Lord

This Thursday is the celebration of the Our Lord's Ascension into heaven. Most of us know it as *Ascension Thursday*! It is a holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at St. Lawrence Church on that Day starting at **9 AM, 12PM and 7 PM.**



On this weekend, as a Nation and as people of Faith, we take the time to remember the millions of men and women throughout the history of our Country, who sacrificed their lives so that we can enjoy the peace, prosperity, opportunities and freedoms which people

of the world have always envied. We're not perfect. Throughout our history have been times when we have abused, neglected and even withheld those precious gifts from others. Yet, God remains patient with us and challenges us to treasure and share those gifts with others, for others. It is what makes us different from all other people. On this weekend make it a point to *Thank* God for those gifts; to bless all of those who risked all, so that we and our children may continue to enjoy them. Finally, let us make it a point to teach our children the importance of Memorial Day. May God always Bless America! Fr. Benn