**August 24, 2025 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – Aug 23rd** – **Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Intentions of Lilian Race (Senior Family)

**Sunday – Aug 24th – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Peace in Europe (parish Community)

**Monday – Aug 25th – Weekday – St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest**

9AM: Intentions of Sharon Sullivan (Dolores Bonk)

**Tuesday – Aug 26th –Weekday –**

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

**Wednesday – Aug 27th – Weekday – St. Monica**

9:00AM: All Expecting Mothers Coping with Unwanted Pregnancies

**Thursday – Aug 28th – Weekday – St. Augustine, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Aug 29th – Weekday – The Passion of St. John the Baptist**

9:00AM: Those Dealing with Depression (Parish Community)

**Saturday – Aug 30th – Weekday –**

9:00AM Those Suffering Silently with Life’s Challenges (Parish Community)

**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 Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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Riegelsville, PA 18077 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! August 24, 2025

Most of us are familiar with today’s Gospel, but it is amazing how many still fail to appreciate the points which Our Lord is making. Our Lord makes several points in this brief Reading; I’d like to comment on three of them:

#1 The analogy about the person who has been invited to another person’s home for some special occasion. The visitor had plenty of opportunities to arrive on time, during daylight. After sundown, there was no light; the entire family (children and adults) went to bed, and then the house was locked up, which was an involved task. There were no security systems, no motion detectors, and no glass in the doors. You had no idea who was on the other side of the door. This was common practice and a courtesy throughout the ancient Near East. The visitor had plenty of opportunity to arrive at his host’s home before sundown. To come to someone’s home under those circumstances was beyond rude; it was selfish, disrespectful, and wrong. The visitor had the responsibility of contributing to his arrival and making it easy for the host to accommodate him. It reminds me of a brief experience we had at the end of this year’s *March for Life,* which was a wonderful day. Before leaving the bus to walk to the starting point of the March, it was emphasized to everyone that they needed to return to the bus by 4:30 PM so we could arrive back at St. John the Baptist church at a decent hour. Everyone had returned to the bus by 4:30 pm, except one party. We waited and waited, watching most of the buses in our parking lot depart for I-95 long ago. Somewhere between 5 and 5:30 PM, a lady and her two daughters boarded the bus with their fresh lattes, explaining that there was a long line ahead of them for whoever they wanted to see. No apology, nothing. Oy! Through this parable,Our Lord wants to impress upon us that **we are responsible** for our relationship with our Creator Parent. The burden isn’t on Him to do everything; the burden is on us to act with gratitude for His invitation to join Him eternally. In so many words, Our Lord is impressing upon his disciples that there is **no place for a sense of entitlement** in a disciple’s life.

#2 “*Behold, some are last who will be first, and some are first who will be last.”* In a variation of His first point, Our Lord is impressing upon everyone who claims to be His disciple that talking the talk is not good enough. One must walk the walk, which is to say, there is no excuse for not being like the Master. The Master is about the Father’s Love, which is expressed in being like the father: forgiving, generous, patient, compassionate, and above all, one who initiates those acts of love. Our acts of love should be spontaneous and done graciously, not like they are an abscessed tooth about to be pulled!

#3 *“And people will come from the east and the west and the south and the north and will recline at table in the kingdom of God.”* Jews and Christians should never presume that they have the inside track to our heavenly home. God reads the hearts of everyone, including those who wouldn’t seem to catch His eye. Our Lord is impressing upon us that many people use the grace God gives them, and it shows in how they live their lives and treat others. We shouldn’t presume that they are the visitor banging on God’s door after sundown.

 So, my sisters and brothers, each day when each of us prays, let us ask the Lord to help us risk becoming a disciple molded in His image and likeness. It is not easy, nor does it happen quickly, and at times it can be scary; nevertheless, the more we trust Him and make genuine efforts to love those around us, especially those who are burdened, the more we will discover what a life changer and a life-giver those efforts become. Your brother in Christ,

**Collections:** Aug 17th Parish and Catholic University Reporting Aug 31. Thank You.

**Catholic Women’s Conference**: see handout.

 RCIA - **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** or contacting Fr. Benn through the Parish Office (610) 749-2684 or online at saintlawrence@verizon.net.