

**May 18, 2025 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday – May 17<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Pope Francis

**Sunday – May 18<sup>th</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live –**

9:30AM: Fr. Gavin W. Muir – Pastor – Deceased 5/15/18 – (Altar Rosary)

**Monday – May 19<sup>th</sup> – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: Margaret Gove (Tom Labant)

**Tuesday – May 20<sup>th</sup> – Easter Weekday – St. Bernardine of Siena, Priest**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Wednesday – May 21<sup>st</sup> – Easter Weekday – St. Christopher Magallanes, Priest, Martyr**

9:00AM: Cecylia Brzuska (Mariola Pratt)

**Thursday – May 22<sup>nd</sup> – Easter Weekday – St. Rita of Casci, Religious)**

9:00AM Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – May 23<sup>rd</sup> – Easter Weekday –**

9:00AM: Intentions of Pope Leo XIV

**Saturday – May 24<sup>th</sup> – Easter Weekday –**

9:00AM Protection of the Unborn & Expecting Mothers

**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**

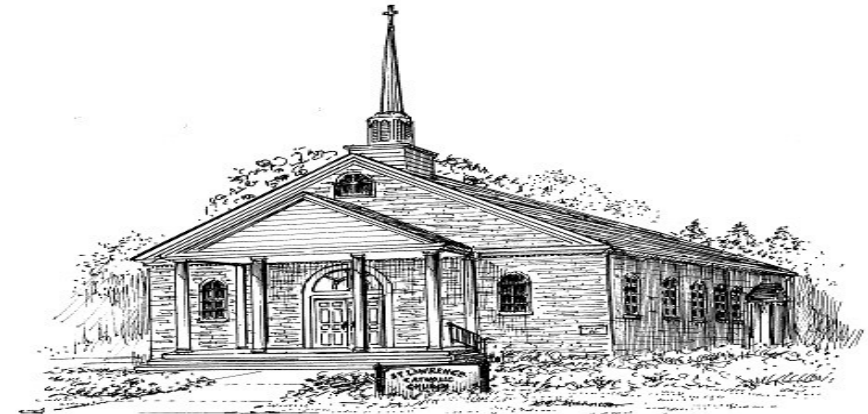
345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto: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! May 18, 2025

## **AOP's Strategic Planning for the Future: St. Lawrence Parish Session**

In the light of the Archdiocese of Philadelphia's (AOP) effort to plan for the Church's future, the Archdiocese is consulting everyone who will be affected by this great effort and who can contribute to its success. Beginning on January 5, 2025 with the Archbishop's Pastoral Letter, the focus has been on the Laity and gaining feedback from them. The first important effort was participating in the ***Disciple Maker Index*** which ran from Ash Wednesday (2/16/25) until Palm Sunday (4/13/25). The next important opportunity for Catholics of the Archdiocese to contribute to the process are the ***Parish Sessions***. These sessions are intended as an information tool, whereby, parishioners have the opportunity to express their vision of Church, their concerns and their hopes. This is also an opportunity for the AOP to explain its vision of the Church for the future; the *what's* and *why's* behind it; the developing plan on how they see it engaging all Catholics of our Archdiocese, and finally, to report on the current state of the process. **St. Lawrence's first Parish Session will be Tuesday evening, May 27<sup>th</sup> (6:30 PM- 8:30 PM) in Ceader Hall.**

This Parish Session will be led by Brenner LeCompte of the *Catholic Leadership Institute* (CLI). The CLI is responsible for the leadership of the AOP's *Strategic Planning*. I am very grateful to Brenner and the CLI for their effort to travel all the way up to Riegelsville in order that the people of St. Lawrence Parish have an opportunity to participate in this process as informed Catholics of Upper Bucks County. I cannot impress upon you the importance of this opportunity.

I am optimistic for the future of St. Lawrence Parish; however, being a small parish, we do not have a lot of cards to play with; we need to take advantage of every opportunity available to us, to make positive impressions upon all involved in the decision process of the Church of Buck County's future. I also believe, that a session like this will help people who are anxious about the future of the Church and the future of the Church in Riegelsville.

This process started about 2 years ago, and it is only now, that it is beginning to gain traction. To a certain extent, the Church of Philadelphia is writing the book on this process. This is the reason why they are consulting with everyone and seek to get this right.

A final note: It will be helpful to those participating in this Parish Session, if you read and reflect on Archbishop Perez's Pastoral letter ***An Invitation from Archbishop Perez***. There are copies in the vestibule of the church. You can also find it on our Parish website: [saint-lawrence-church.org](http://saint-lawrence-church.org) (click on the ***Strategic Plan box***), and on the AOP's website [archphila.org](http://archphila.org) (scroll down to the box an ***Invitation from Archbishop Perez***). While visiting that particular site, you might find the additional commentaries, plus a variety of 2-minute videos informative.

Your brother in Christ



**Collections:** May 11 Parish @ \$2846.



**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.

**Ascension Thursday!** Just a reminder that, the next important spiritual event that takes place within the Easter season is the *Ascension of Our Lord*, which will be

celebrated on Thursday, May 29<sup>th</sup>. It is a Holy Day of Obligation. Masses will be celebrated at 9AM, 12 PM and 7 PM.

**Coffee & Donuts:** Sunday, May 11 following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall. All are welcome.

**Mission Co-Operative Weekend:** May 17 & 18



**Welcome Brother Lucian!**

On this weekend, we will be joined by Brother Lucian of the *Brothers of the Sacred Heart*. Brother Lucian is here to ask for our financial and prayerful assistance for His community. The *Brothers of the Sacred Heart* were founded in Lyon, France in September 30, 1821 by Fr. Andrew Coindre in an effort to minister to children who were orphaned, becoming innocent victims of the French Revolution and the Napoleonic eras. Presently they minister in over thirty countries, including in the United States. Additional Information on the *Brothers of the Sacred Heart* can be found in the vestibule of the Church. Please do your best to support this order as best as you can.

## **St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church**

This weekend, our good neighbor and Ecumenical Partner, St. Peter's *Evangelical Lutheran Church* is celebrating their 175<sup>th</sup> Anniversary as a Christian community. This is an extraordinary accomplishment, that could have been accomplished without the guidance of the Holy Spirit. Unfortunately, the timing of their celebration and the timing of our Sunday mass coincide, so we won't be able to join them in their celebration. Many of the people of St. Peter's are your neighbors. When you encounter them, make it a point to congratulate them on this great accomplishment. As a parish, let us rejoice with the people of this wonderful community and hold them up to Our Lord, that He watch over them and guide them in the coming years. Fr. Benn

## **Becoming a Catholic!**

It was only 4 weeks ago, when hundreds of Catechumens and Catechist throughout the United States were received into the Catholic Church during the celebration of the ***Easter Vigil*** within their new spiritual family. Here at St. Lawrence, we were blessed by one such gift. If you are a person or know of a person, who has expressed an interest in becoming a Catholic, encourage them to look into what is involved. No one should make a big decision without acquiring as much information as possible. The name of the process is RCIA

{Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults}. There are information sheets on St. Lawrence's RCIA program in the carousel in the vestibule of the church. They can also check out the parish website [saint-lawrence-church.org](http://saint-lawrence-church.org) which offers similar information. The best way to acquire information about RCIA is to contact Fr. Benn, where the two of them can sit down and discuss what is involved. Some quick info: The process takes about 9 months; we start in September, usually the week after Labor Day. We meet once a week for an hour; you don't have to be a theologian; we presume you are a blank page, so we keep it simple; there are no tests! If at any point in this journey a person feels they want to step back from the program, they are welcomed; we want them to feel comfortable throughout the preparation process. Because there is a lot of material to cover, it is important that candidates start "at the beginning"; acceptance of new Candidates closes September 28<sup>th</sup>. At this moment, specific details of the program have not been ironed out, but should be by July.

Finally, during these summer months, every Candidates should pray..... talk to God and ask Him for the guidance you need.