

September 13, 2026 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – Sept 12th – Vigil Mass –

5:00PM Intentions of Tom & Mary Senior – 40th Wedding Anniversary (a Friend)

Sunday – Sept 13th - Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM Intentions of Rex & Mariann Helfant (A Friend)

Monday – Sept 14th – Weekday – The Exaltation of the Holy Cross

9:00AM Nadeline Caggianelli (Affuso Family)

Tuesday – Sept 15th – Weekday – Our Lady of Sorrows

9:00AM Peregrina Soto (Labar Family)

Wed. – Sept 16th - Weekday – St. Cornelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

9:00AM Janet Achuff (Castelletti Family)

Thurs. – Sept 17th – Weekday – St. Robert Bellamine, Bishop

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – Sept 18th – Weekday –

9:00AM Nadeline Caggianelli (Marthas & Mary Ministry)

Saturday – Sept 19th – Weekday – St. Januarlius, Bishop & Martyr

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

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, Emma Jones, **Bernie Boylan, Elizabeth Ohle**

Church of Saint Lawrence

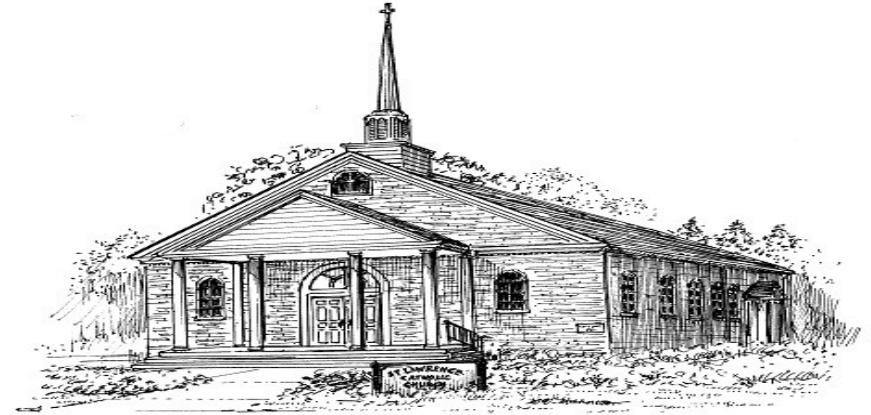
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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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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 Friday @ 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 September 13, 2026

Without doubt, this weekend's Scripture Readings are about our responsibility when responding to those who wrong us. In the Ancient World, such situations were dealt with by the *Code of Reciprocity*, which held that if someone knowingly and deliberately wrongs a person, the victim had the right to demand similar punishment. For example, if you were caught impoverishing someone by stealing their money or ruining their business, he would have the right to punish that person by claiming all of their wealth or claiming their business. If you were responsible for the permanent injury or loss of my eyesight or my ability to walk, then I would have the right to demand the loss of your eyesight or your ability to walk. As you can imagine, it didn't take long until the victims were abusing this "right", where their demands often transitioned from justice to vengeance. Regardless of the culture of particular traditions or a particular group of people, the *Code of Reciprocity* was a common part of that society's sense of justice.

When Our Lord comes on the scene, He introduces a different response to such injustices; namely, *Forgiveness* and its twin, *Compassion*. Our Lord is not advocating that there should be no accountability for wrongs and injustices done to anyone. Every person should be held accountable for the wrongs they do to others. Also, our lord is not implying that we should find this difficult to do. Nevertheless, Our Lord insists that, as victims, we are the only ones who can break the cycle of *Wrong* by responding to them with *acts of Love*. This sounds wonderful in theory, especially if we are the benefactors of such compassion; but it is harddddddd. It

takes courage. It takes humility, and above all it takes Faith. Faith that our loving God won't waste the terrible wounds which we suffered at the hands of someone who was arrogant, selfish, cowardly and completely dishonest with his conscience. A powerful example of the victim refusing to forgive the victimizer can be found among all those involved in the First World War. At the turn of the Nineteenth Century, war had largely been romanticized. Before WWI, there had been plenty of wars in Europe in addition to the breathtaking violence of the American Civil War, but the scale and violence of WWI shocked everyone. At the end of it, Europe was largely a destroyed part of the planet, and so was the world's economy. Worst of all, literally, a whole generation of young men and women from the countries of both sides had been killed, maimed, or gassed. When it came time for the victors to confront Germany and her allies and hold them accountable for the staggering consequences of their behavior, they showed no mercy. Germany lost land. Any national treasure that they had was confiscated to help rebuild the bankrupt economies of the countries they had victimized. This created a severe financial burden on the people of Germany for many years. They saw no end to their hardships, which was the victors' intention: they wanted to make a deep and lasting impression on the Germans that this would never happen again, and that if they attempted it, the world's punishment would be worse than what they were experiencing. This was the *Code of Retribution* gone bad... very Bad. Not surprisingly, 20-25 years later, the world had to deal with Adolf Hitler and the Nazis; all because the world chose to respond to those who wounded them so terribly with an

attitude that was unwilling to forgive and to rebuild.

I make this sound so simple and easy, but it isn't. It is hard, sometimes verging on heartbreaking. Still, this is *what* Our Lord is talking about, and especially *why* Our Lord teaches this. This is the point Our Lord is trying to make to Peter when he asks, "How many times am I obliged to forgive someone who has wronged me?" When Our Lord responds, "seventy times seven," it is the Semitic way of saying "as often as they need your forgiveness." Evil will beget Evil. Forgiveness is about healing. Vengeance is about wounding. Regardless of whether it is between two individuals, two families, two Races, or two countries, if they don't have the spiritual guts to trust in the power of God's love and take the risks involved, the cycle of Evil's dysfunction and destruction will continue.

My sisters and brothers, this is the very reason why Our Lord refused to give in to the people's hunger for Him to become a political Messiah, and more importantly, why He wouldn't come down from the Cross. All of this is why each day, it is so important for each of us to ask Our Lord to help us to be a humble man, a humble woman; trusting that within that humility, He will provide a strength that is far stronger and far more powerful than any decision to hurt back, to humiliate back, to control. One does not acquire such a spiritual strength overnight. It only happens when we keep trying after we fail; when, like the Apostles, we finally trust in His way and the power of His love. For me, this is a lifelong struggle, and it always begins by not making excuses for my failures and by stopping to fret about controlling

things. God's Wisdom and Love are powerful! Let us always ask Our Lord to trust in it

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Sept 6th Parish @ \$2354.
Thank You

Special Collection: Black & Indian
Missions, Sept 13 & 14

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, Sept 13
following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader
Hall. All invited.

Holy Name Society: meeting Sept 14 @
7PM @ Ceader Hall



- 1) Why do bees have sticky hair?
- 2) What's the best way to watch a fly-fishing tournament?
- 3) How do lawyers say goodbye?
- 4) Why do fish swim in salt water?
- 5) What did the beach say to the tide when it came back in?

1-Because they use a honeycomb, 2- Live stream, 3 – We'll be suing ya!, 4 – Because pepper makes them sneeze, 5 – Long time, no sea.