

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684
Rectory Fax: 610-749-2695

Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net
Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org



Mass Schedule

Saturday Evenings @ 5:00 p.m.
Sunday Morning @ 9:30 a.m.
Holy Days @ 9:00 a.m. & 7:00 p.m.
Mon, Tues, Wed, Fri, Sat. @ 9AM
Thurs, 9AM No Mass, Communion Distribution Only

Eucharistic Adoration: Wednesdays 9:30AM to 11AM.

Confessions

Saturday 3:30pm to 4:30pm
Or by appointment other days/time. Contact Rectory

Holy Name Society

Meets second Monday of the month (Sept-May) at 7:00 p.m.

Altar & Rosary Society

Meets second Thursday of the month (Sept-May) 7:00p.m.

Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes

Meets First Saturday of each month after the 9:00 a.m. Mass.

Parish Registration

We welcome all new members to our Parish family. Please register when you move into the parish. Please notify us if you are moving.

Weddings

Couples are asked to contact the Rectory and make arrangements at least six months prior to their intended

Catholic Elementary School

Children may attend Regina Academy at St. John the Baptist School, Ottsville; for further information call: 610-847-5523.

Parish PREP Classes

Parish children attending public or private school, may receive Catholic Faith instructions via our Parish Religious Edu. Program. Morning instructions one week during the summer (8/16-8/20/21 for the 2021-2022 year. Also required is attendance at one Sunday per month session 10:30AM-12PM, October-April. Open registration published in bulletin & posted on Parish Wb site.

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Pastor's Corner! April 11, 2021

We sang it last weekend and we must sing it again: "Alleluia! Alleluia! The Lord is risen!" Happy Easter everyone! I hope that Holy Week and the celebration of Easter Sunday has been a time of renewal for each of you. I encourage you to build on the spiritual efforts you made during this past Lent, so that this new season might become for you a time of re-newed life. Our experiences of the past 12 months have shown us what happens when God is absent. That being said, I want to acknowledge a number of groups and individuals from our parish family who have worked hard to contribute to the presence of Our Lord in St. Lawrence Parish throughout the past 12 months, but especially throughout this past winter, Lent and Holy Week. I want to thank our Sacristan, Bernie Boylan. Those of you who know Bernie, know what a dedicated man he is to our parish, but especially to the church and preparations for each and every liturgy. He's the first to arrive in order to open up the church and the last to leave. If everything seems to go smoothly in church, it is because Bernie is taking care of dozens of important details.

A source of great joy and pride in our parish is our ability to Livestream our Sunday liturgies, plus special liturgies, as we did with the Holy Week celebrations. It would not have happened if it weren't for a small group of very dedicated parishioners: Bob & Betty Steinberg, Tracy Meadows and, more recently, Amy Wydner. Just as critical, working behind the scenes were Jim Eckrich, Joe Affuso and "Irish Dave" McAuliffe. Over a year ago, when the Quarantine began, we had no way of providing the slightest connection with the place where you are spiritually nourished. Bob, Betty and Tracy brainstormed a number of ideas and eventually were able to cobble together our Livestream program, which started on Palm Sunday 2020. Behind the scenes it was all duct-tape, step ladders, extension cords, with a few contractors' work lamps. Of course, this meant that they would need to be here 30-45 minutes ahead of time for every Mass to set up; ditto for taking it all down. After a month or so, we looked at each other and knew that livestreaming of the Eucharist, must become a part of St. Lawrence's parish life. This is when the St. Lawrence's *Holy Name Society* stepped in, particularly in the persons of Joe Affuso, Jim Eckrich and the Ceader Trust. With help from the Ceader Trust, we were able to acquire the funding needed to purchase the video equipment needed for a first-class broadcast. Just as importantly, the Ceader Trust covered the cost of the new lighting in the sanctuary, which was a greater expense than the cost of the video equipment. Our church is simple in its design and layout, which lends itself to decorations. Over the past year, we have celebrated 1 Season of Advent & Christmas, plus 2 seasons of Lents & Easters; that's 31 weekends! When you came in to celebrate the Eucharist during any of those seasons, the church was clean, sanitized and always nicely decorated,

especially at Christmas and Easter. This does not happen at the last minute by throwing a few things together, nor is it accomplished by one or two people. Leading the charge in all of this is our Parish *Altar & Rosary Society*, led by Mary Senior and her partner in crime, Mary Gambino. These ladies would be the first to tell you that many people were involved and volunteered their time, which is true. Nevertheless, the two "Mary's" are the ones to whom we owe the most gratitude. Through their efforts, we had a beautiful environment to encounter Our Lord during these sacred seasons.

Another person who pours herself into our parish particularly in organizing most of our social events is Sharon Affuso. Whenever we are considering doing something that involves a social gathering, all of us instinctively look to Sharon and she never hesitates to cheerfully jump in and turn that event into a success.

Another person who quietly works behind the scenes in church is Cathy Jones. Without being asked, Cathy makes certain that the altar servers' albs are cleaned, the holy water fonts clean and fresh, and the vestibule of the church orderly and free of trash.

This year, because of the handicaps imposed by the Pandemic, we would have had NO music if it weren't for our Choir Director, Janet Miller. We had no choir and only one Cantor, the ever-faithful Joe Meadows. Every weekend.....every weekend, Janet planned and prepared the limited amount of music we were allowed to use. On top of that, she prepared music programs for every weekend, which were e mailed to those who watch our liturgies via livestream. For Holy Week, she prepared printed copies of the *Passion*, so that our livestream audience was able to assume their part as the "**Crowd**" during the reading of *The Passion* on Palm Sunday and Good Friday. Of course, every time anyone entered our church, they entered a spotless and sanitized church; this was a weekly reality because of Terry Olimpo and those parishioners who stayed for 10-15 minutes to sanitize the church every Saturday evening following the 5 PM Mass.

We need to be aware that surprise maintenance issues were handle by our maintenance man Irish Dave and Jim Eckrich. You know how many times roads and sidewalks were covered with snow and/or ice. Jim Eckrich was the man who came out in all of this, to supervise those jobs in order to make certain that everyone arrived to plowed parking lots and safe sidewalks.

Last, but not least, Parish Secretary, Finance Manager and Tech "guy", Tom Senior made certain that the business side of the parish ran smoothly, despite the many challenges and surprises created by the Pandemic and foul weather. This is the short version of the story of what was going on behind the scenes at St. Lawrence over the last 12 months. I'm sure, I have overlooked a few other parishioners and ask for their forgiveness. Nevertheless, as we enjoy the new life which we celebrate at Easter, I wanted you to know about of some those who have contributed to the wonderful experience of being a part of St. Lawrence parish.



Collections: March 28 Parish @ \$2925, Easter Flowers @ \$20, Rice Bowl @ \$125; April 4 Easter @ \$5508, Candles @ \$129, Holy Thurs. @ \$42, Good Fri. @ \$107. Thank you.

Catholic Charites 2021 has begun. In pew donation envelopes are available. Direct mailings from the AOP will be received at your home. Checks are payable to Catholic Charites, not St. Lawrence.

Divine Mercy Sunday: All are invited to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy on Saturday evening, April 10th and Sunday morning, April 11th. The Chaplet will begin after Father leaves the Altar and we sing the closing hymn. To fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy, we should: 1) Celebrate the Feast on the Sunday after Easter; 2) Sincerely repent of all our sins; 3) Place our complete trust in Jesus; 4) Go to confession, before that Sunday; 5) Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast, or at the Vigil Mass; 6) Venerate the image of the Divine Mercy; 7) Be merciful to others, through our actions, words and prayers on their behalf.

To venerate a sacred image simply means to perform some act or make some gesture of deep religious respect towards it because of the person whom it represents—in this case, our Most Merciful Savior.

Pope Francis Proclaims Holy Year to St. Joseph

On the 150th anniversary of Pope Pius XI's proclamation of St. Joseph as the Patron of the Universal Church, Pope Francis declared a Holy Year dedicated to St. Joseph 12/8/20 to 12/8/21.

Prayer: Hail, Guardian of the Redeemer > Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary > To you God entrusted His only Son > in you Mary placed her trust > with you Christ became man.

Blessed Joseph, to us too > show yourself a father > and guide us in the path of life. Obtain for us, grace, mercy and courage > and defend us from every evil. Amen.

EGiving: does not replace what you currently do. It merely provides an additional option. To E Give go to: www.TheCFGF.org/stlawrencepsi which takes you directly to the donation page. Click on Donate under Parish Support Initiative. Select/enter your \$ amount to be donated. Enter your credit/debit card info and submit. There are no fees charged to donator. There is also a link on our Parish web site.

New Parishioners –WELCOME!! No need to feel shy. We are happy you are here. To register Please contact Fr. Benn via Parish office 610-749-2684 or email: saint-lawrence@verizon.net to make arrangements to meet him. Thank you. We are ready to welcome you

April 11, 2021 - Divine Mercy Sunday

Saturday - April 10th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday - April 11th - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Monday - April 12th – Easter Weekday

9AM: Protection of the Unborn

Tuesday - April 13th - St. Martin I, Pope & Martyr

9AM: Food & Clothing for the Poor

Wednesday - April 14th – Easter Weekday

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Personal Intentions for those in need

Thursday - April 15th - Easter Weekday

9AM: Readings & Communion Distributions Only

Friday - April 16th - Easter Weekday

9AM: Prevention Worldwide Religious Persecution

Saturday - April 17th - Easter Weekday

9AM: Intentions of Barbara Itterly - Birthday (Lay Carmelite Community)

CHRIST IS HERE

Christ departed from our sight that we might return to our heart, and there find him. For he departed, and behold, he is here.

—St. Augustine

A CHEERFUL GIVER

A cheerful giver does not count the cost of what he gives. His heart is set on pleasing and cheering the one to whom the gift is given.

—St. Julian

Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life! John Sonder, Dave Blessing, Jeff Olimpo, Matt Sebastiano, Maria Middleton, Virginia Lohmeyer, Fern & John Gibson, William Merkle, Barbara and Ells Cheeseman, Julie Petry, Eve Zelle, Steven Fusco, Russ & Ann Funkhouser, Joseph Jones, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Andrew Schlotter, Bill Chabot, Bethany Steinberg, MaryLou VonDohlen, Lucy Herman, Mary Ann & Roger Brahler, Sue & Beach Wires, Joann Thaler

INFORMATION SHEET

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Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

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