

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! August 1, 2021

Today's 1st Reading is filled with references to anger and the difficulty of being patient with, not only *how* God moves in our lives, but also the seeming *glacial speed* with which he reaches out to us, especially when we are in crisis. We hear how the Israelites "grumble" against Moses and Aaron because they are suffering terribly with hunger and thirst in the desert. They won't admit it, but when they do this, they know they are also "grumbling" against God. I suspect that most of us can sympathize with the Israelites. They are grateful that God has responded to their pleas to be freed from slavery in Egypt and have done their best to trust Him in these early weeks as they journey to the *Promised Land*. They were willing to embrace the hardships of a long journey to the Promised Land, but they didn't realize that their journey would also be a spiritual journey, one in which they would need to discover how seriously they took God and how seriously they would be committed to Him. They needed to learn that a love relationship isn't one in which one party [God] does all of the loving and the other party [Israelites] does all of the receiving. In a true love-relationship, both parties sacrifice for the other. Their appreciation of God's goodness are short-sighted and their expectations of Him are misplaced. The Israelites are suffering; they are scared for themselves and their children, and they see no end to this suffering. In their minds, their future seems to be as violent and endless as the sands of the desert.

I'm sure that most of us can empathize with the Israelites. No doubt, many of us have had the painful experience where either we or someone whom we love very much, blows up because of some prolonged wound which both parties believe the other has caused; they feel they can't endure it anymore, nor should they be asked to endure anymore. We are as hurt as we are angry. Terrible things are said, wounding in ways, we never would expect of them or of ourselves. Initially, we fear that the wounds are so severe that there is nothing that you or they can say or do to heal them. These are the moments when we must respond to that loved one with the patience, humility and love which God extends to the Israelites. He doesn't wipe them from the face of the earth. He doesn't compound things by giving them "the silent treatment". He doesn't hold on to the awful things they said or the sting of their short memory. Rather, He risks being hurt again, by reaching out to them and providing for them. For their part, the Israelites discover that God loves them just as much after their meltdown as He did

when He freed them from Egypt. They learn that they are responsible for His heart; that He takes them seriously, but expects them to act on the love they claim to have for Him. This terrible journey of their *Exodus* is their way of loving Him back. It is not a loyalty check; it is an opportunity to love God with their trust. It is great in theory, but tough to live out. Like the Israelites, I stumble in such moments as they did. Nevertheless, it works and it works because the engine driving this caliber of love is God. No doubt these comments bring back memories during your own time in the desert when some loved-one wounded you, or whom you wounded. Don't dismiss the truth of the Israelite's lesson in how to be in relationship with God; it is His blueprint for us in our relationship with Him as well as with those in our lives, especially those who hurt us or whom we have hurt. Regardless of who has wounded whom, when we emulate God's fatherly patience and generosity, there is nothing His love cannot heal and nothing He cannot renew. Amen! Amen!

Your Brother in Christ



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

If the alb is the premier baptismal garment, then why are there so many other styles of vesture in evidence in our parishes? In some places, altar servers and other ministers might wear a garment, usually black, called a cassock. Over that is normally worn a white garment (a "surplice"), reminiscent of the alb but much shorter, often of starched linen and trimmed with lace. The cassock is not a liturgical garment, but a clerical robe. Its origins lie in the religious habit of monks. By the late Middle Ages, diocesan priests and clerics increasingly were encouraged to emulate religious priests. Very small boys were often apprenticed to monasteries, especially for music education, and would be invested with a cassock and sometimes even inducted into the ranks of clerics. For centuries before the Reformation, it was required that all men entering higher education be clerics, and so the cassock and its variations became familiar academic garb. At the Reformation, many ministers retained a form of the cassock as ordinary dress, rejecting liturgical garments. In the seventeenth century, the English Civil War was in part provoked by the Archbishop of Canterbury's insistence that ministers wear surplices. Although the Episcopal Church now retains "cassock and surplice" as the normal dress for lay men and women assisting at liturgy, Catholics are increasingly attentive to the deeply traditional treasure of the alb, our baptismal robe, when special liturgical vesture is needed.

Collections: July 25 Parish @ \$2982, Thank you.

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, August 8th following the Sunday 9:30AM Mass. All are invited.

Saturday Summer Dinners!

They're back! With the lifting of Covid restrictions, we have decided to return to our *Saturday Summer Dinners!* Here's the remaining 2021 schedule: **7/31/21** and **8/28/21**. All dinners begin following the conclusion of the Saturday Vigil Mass. All will be BYOB. There will be no charge. Although free-will offerings will be accepted. Details will follow shortly. It's been a long time since we have been able to gather in a relaxed setting; we hope you can attend!

A SECRET

The secret of happiness is to count your blessings while others are adding up their troubles.

GOVERNING OUR PASSIONS

Whoever governs their passions is master of the world. We must either command them, or be commanded by them. It is better to be the hammer than the anvil.

—St. Dominic

Special Mass: *Year of St. Joseph.* Mass will be celebrated @ **7PM on 8/2, 9/6, 10/4, 11/2/21** in Honor of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In addition to the 9AM Weekday Mass.

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.

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.

August 1, 2021 - Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday - July 31st -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday - August 1st - Mass is Streamed Live

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

Monday - August 2nd – St. Eusebius of Vercelli, Bishop; St. Peter Julian Eymard, Priest

9AM: Protect the Unborn - Pro Life Initiatives

7 PM: Special Mass - Year of St. Joseph

Tuesday - August 3rd - Weekday

9AM: Barbara Polaneczky (Jones Family)

Wednesday - August 4th – St. John Vianney, Priest

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Protect Vacationing Families on their Travels

Thursday - August 5th - Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution

Friday - August 6th - The Transfiguration of the Lord

9AM: Poor & Hungry of the World

Saturday - August 7th - St. Sixtus II, Pope, & Companions, Martyrs. St. Cajetan, Priest, BVM

9AM: Souls in Purgatory (Helfant Family)

Special Mass: Year of St. Joseph, Monday, August 2nd @ 7PM

NO DAILY MASS on August 9-10-11-12-13.
Mass resumes on August 14 @ 9AM

Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life! Tom TrotterIV, 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, Bethany Steinberg, MaryLou VonDohlen, Lucy Herman, Mary Ann & Roger Brahler, Sue & Beach Wires, Joann Thaler

INFORMATION SHEET

CHURCH NAME:

St. Lawrence

BULLETIN NUMBER:

497325.1

Date of publication:
(Sunday's date)

Number of pages transmitted:

4 including cover

Special instructions:

Please call Tom @ 610-749-2684
Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

Quantity for print @ 150 each