

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

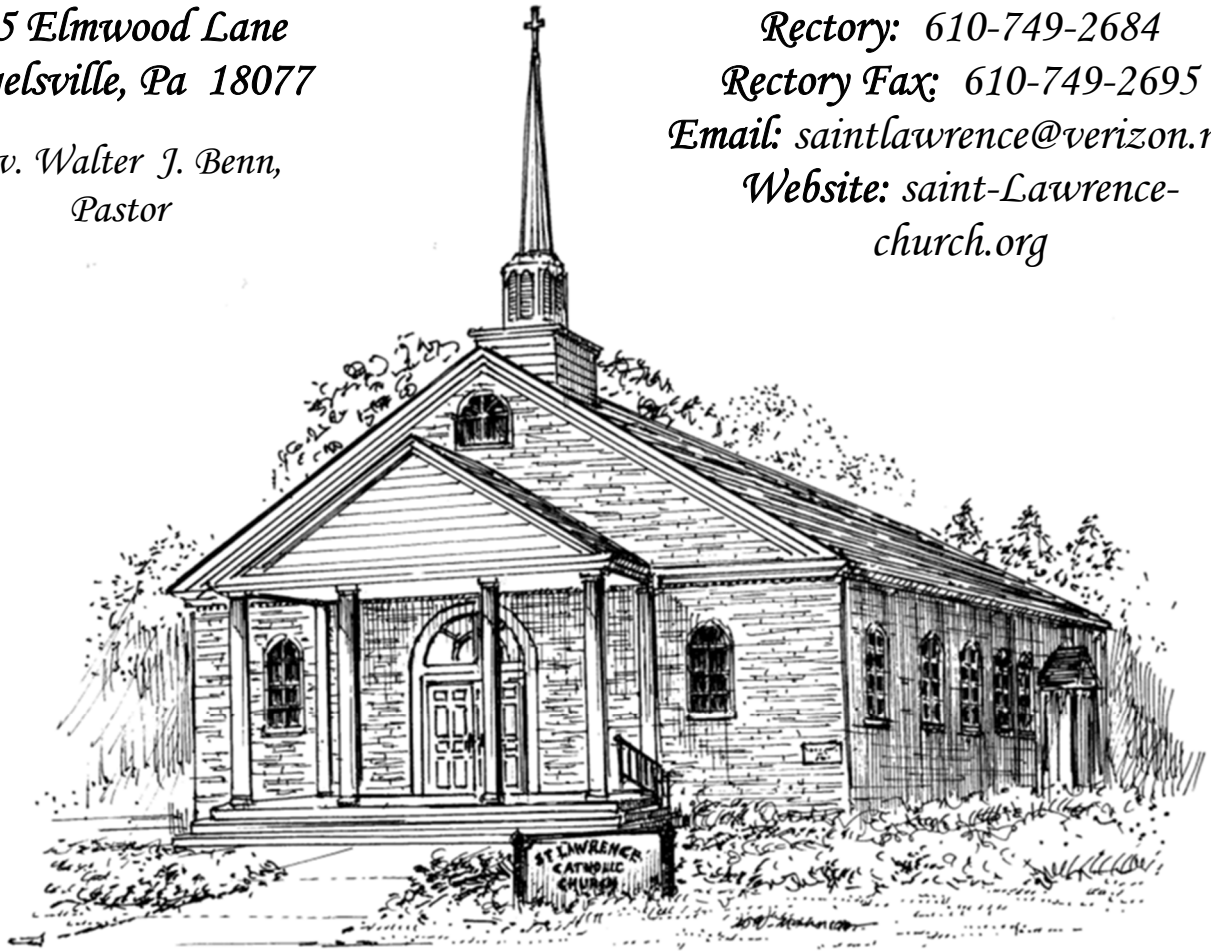
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

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 on Sunday at 8:30 a.m. in the Parish Hall from October to May. Registration is published in the Parish Bulletin.

Rectory Office Hours

Monday—Friday 9:30 a.m. to Noon

Pastor's Corner! December 13, 2020

Over the last three weeks, we have been hearing from two prophets; The prophet Isaiah and the last of the prophets, St. John the Baptist. Although God sent them to confront their people with their dishonesty and unfaithfulness, one cannot help but hear within their words, the message that God still loves them, and is anxious to love them if they will stop playing games with him. In Isaiah we hear, "The spirit of the Lord is upon me, because the Lord has anointed me, he has sent glad tidings to the poor, to heal the brokenhearted, and proclaim liberty to captives and release to the prisoners, to announce a year of favor to the Lord and a day of vindication by our God." Those poor and brokenhearted, those captives and prisoners are us and the people of our world. In today's Gospel we hear the Baptist quote the prophet Isaiah, "I am the voice of one crying out in the desert... Make straight the way of the Lord." Can you imagine how encouraged and hopeful these words must have been for people who felt so bad about themselves and their lives. Finally, someone came among them who did not reject them or tell them that God had rejected them. They were shown that they were worth being loved, including by their God. This was a very liberating experience for them, an experience that inspired them to change from being persons who were self-centered to persons who were willing to risk being other-centered. If God was willing to risk His heart for them again, they knew they could risk allowing him to change their hearts and their lives.

My brothers & sisters, there are so many things we can take from this weekend's readings, but I would suggest that you focus on one of them. Be a John the Baptist In a world that is saturated with bad news, hopelessness, distrust, separation and the self; choose to be a person who professes that God is good; that God has not thrown His hands up on us. Let people see in your choices and hear in your words, that *forgiveness* will break down injustice; *respect* will defeat arrogance; that *honesty* will win -out over dishonesty; that *trust* will inspire trust-worthiness and that when we persevere in *hope & faith*, there is no evil, no matter how powerful or how long it lasts, that will ever overcome God's love for each of his children! However, we will never be able to do this until you "make straight the way of the Lord" in your own lives. This is a life-long process and it begins with humility and a willingness to be transparent before our God. Depending on how we use it, during this Season of Advent, we are once again called to go out into the desert, to be alone with God; to listen to His words and see

what He reveals to us about our lives. Our world needs for us to do this, because they are afraid to change....to risk undergoing such a conversion. However, like the people who came out into the desert to listen to John the Baptist, they will take that risk when they experience that change in you. Whether you wanted to be or not, God has drawn you into their desert to be their John the Baptist. Your brother in Christ,



Reasons to Rejoice

Saint Paul seems to be throwing out a handful of sayings that may sound overly optimistic, but are actually very practical. "Rejoice always"? If we pray constantly and thank God for all that happens to us, we have reason to rejoice. Even the things we don't like can be turned to good by God. God allows sin because it leads to forgiveness, an experience of God's love for us. And God allows even death, because God can bring us to eternal life.

When Paul tells us not to quench the Spirit he means we should be open to what the Holy Spirit moves us to do. "Prophetic utterances" refer to things that other people were inspired to proclaim. If we pray constantly (1 Thessalonians 5:17), the distractions of this world will not keep us from hearing the Spirit within us. We won't be so critical of others that we miss what the Spirit is telling us through them. How do we know if something really is from the Spirit? Saint Paul says, test everything. Retain what is good (1 Thessalonians 5:21). Use the scriptures, the teachings of the Church, and your conscience to decide whether the Spirit is moving you, or if advice you hear is worthwhile. Trust God to make us holy if we only allow it. Then we will be ready for the coming of the Lord, whether through the sacraments, the celebration of Christmas, or God's final coming in glory. I'd say that's a reason to rejoice.

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ANGELS OF PEACE

Let us not be justices of the peace, but angels of peace.

—St. Thérèse of Lisieux

UNDERSTANDING SCRIPTURE

Most people are bothered by those passages in Scripture which they can't understand; but . . . I have noticed that the passages in Scripture which trouble me most are those I do understand.

—Mark Twain

Collections: December 6th Parish @ \$1493, Christmas Flowers @ \$15, Religious Retirement @ \$233, Nativity Donation @ \$50 Thank You.

Angel Tree: will be in vestibule beginning 11/28/20 containing requested gift tags for needy children of parents who receive help from the Lord's Pantry @ St. John the Baptist, Ottsville. ONLY gift cards will be provided this year rather than actual wrapped gifts. Instructions in vestibule. Deadline is Sunday 12/13/20. Thank you!!

Greening of the Church: for Christmas following the 9:30AM Mass on December 20PM

Advent Confessions: Monday, 12/21 @ 7PM-8PM

Holy Name Society: Meeting Dec 14th @ 7PM in Ceadar Hall

Knights of Columbus: Meeting Dec 21 @ 7:30PM in Ceadar Hall.

MEASURING SUCCESS

Success is to be measured not so much by the position that one has reached in life as by the obstacles that one has overcome while trying to succeed.

—Booker T. Washington

Catholic Education Financial Assistance: *THE DEADLINE HAS PASSED:* Forms are now available in vestibule for the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 school year provided by the Trustees of the Ceadar Trust. Time sensitive, act now. **Deadline is 11/30/20.** For registered parishioners of St. Lawrence.

E-Giving: does not replace what you currently do. It merely provides an additional option. To E Give go to: www.TheCFGP.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: saintlawrence@verizon.net to make arrangements to meet him. Thank you. We are ready to welcome you.

December 13, 2020 -3rd Sunday of Advent

Saturday - Dec 12th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday - Dec 13th - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Joseph/Irene Moninghoff (Barbara Itterly)

Monday - Dec 14th – St. John of the Cross, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9AM: Special Intentions (Ann Funkhouser)

Tuesday - Dec 15th - Advent Weekday

9AM: Virus Protection

**Wednesday - Dec 16th – Advent Weekday
*Exposition of Blessed Sacrament***

9AM:

Thursday - Dec 17th - Advent Weekday

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday - Dec 18th - Advent Weekday

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Saturday - Dec 19th – Advent Weekday

9AM: Virus Protection

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Lectors, Altar Servers & Extraordinary Ministers:
NO assignments till future notice. You are welcome to volunteer. Thank you for your consideration.



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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St. Lawrence

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Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

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