

# Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

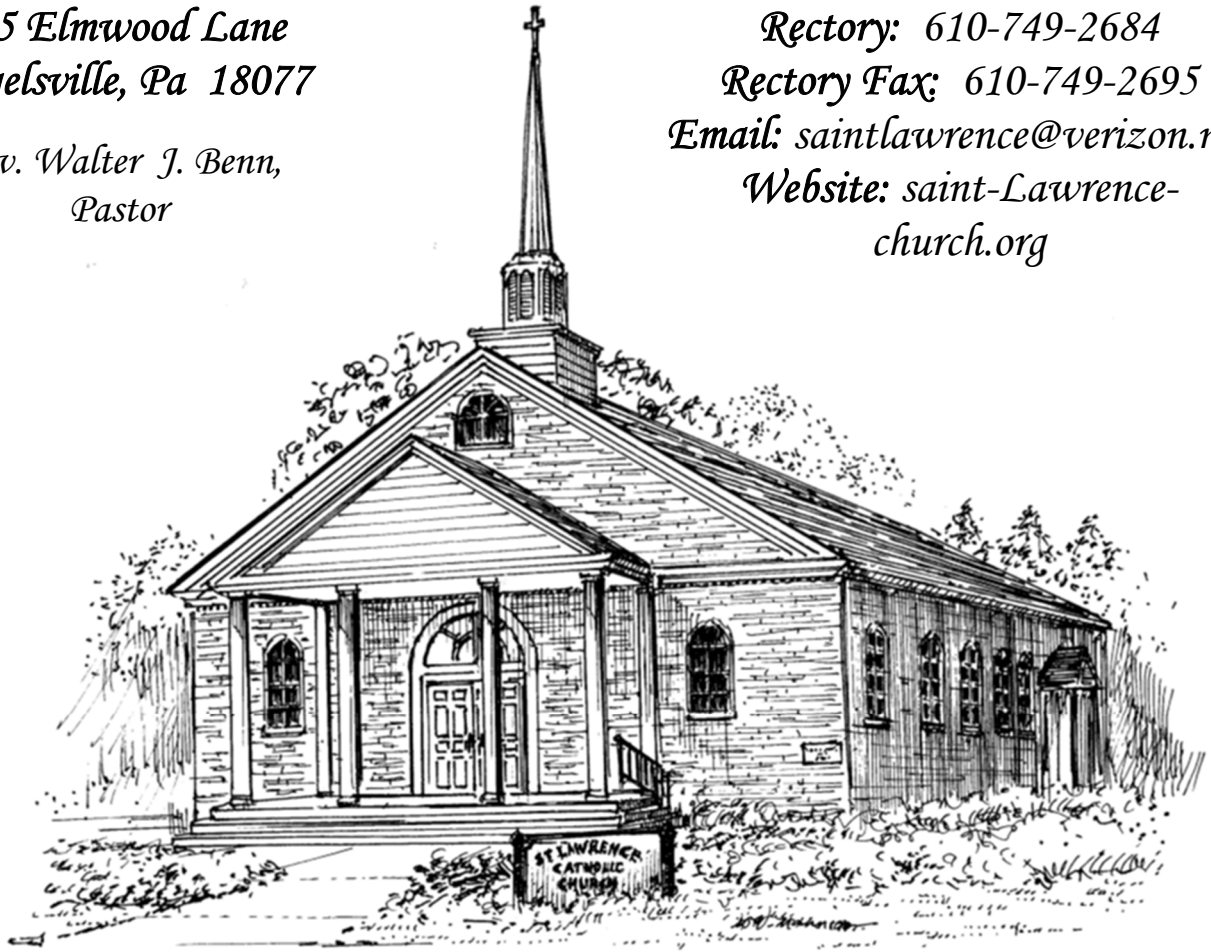
Rev. Walter J. Benn,  
Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Rectory Fax: 610-749-2695

Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net)

Website: [saint-Lawrence-church.org](http://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 6, 2020

Who of us can imagine large groups of people willing to travel long distances, through hostile environments, at their own expense, to listen to someone who would confront them with their faults, their sins? I think most people would be willing to drive long distances, with the presumption that there would be plenty of “places to stop to get something to eat”, motels to comfortably stay overnight all in order to enjoy a concert, an airshow, a football game, the seashore, etc. but not to be publicly challenged about their personal shortcomings. Yet, that is exactly what we see happening in today's Gospel regarding John the Baptist. Why would they do this? The Baptist experience is comprised of two parts. Part1: Good people can choose to do bad things; for everyone, it begins with being dishonest with oneself. More often than not, such behavior is not typical of their choices. Nevertheless, as all of us can attest, once one starts rationalizing something that is sinful, it becomes increasingly more difficult to stop. After we have made the turn onto that slippery road, we realize that we don't have the four wheel-drive to control the situations we have created. It can become so bad, that after a while, we lose all sense of the wrongness of what we are doing. Yet, in His love for us, God never gives up on us. God continues to whisper warnings into the spiritual ear of our conscience, and after time, we come to the painful realization that the reason we are not at peace is because we have been wounding ourselves; wounding our relationship with those around us; wounding our relationship with God. That's when we need a John the Baptist in our lives and that is when we realize that we need to seek him out, because he is both a man of brutal honesty and because he is a man who cares about us. The people sense that the Baptist is a man who has dedicated his life for God and for them. We must realize that he feels the same way about you and me. He loves us so much, that he gives us the truth with both barrels. It isn't painless, but it is liberating. That is why the Baptist draws people out into the desert. He is forcing them to strip away all distractions both outside of themselves and within themselves. Part2: The people come to John the Baptist because of the second part of his message. He encourages them to trust that God is not only coming, but more importantly, He is coming to love them. The Baptist assures them that God seeks to love them, provided their lives are free of all the things which, until now, they have used as a substitution for Him. His message is one of promise to them; promise that they are included

in God's plan of eternal love. For a long time, they had not been offered that teaching or encouraged to believe that God felt that way about them. For those who take the risk of exposing themselves to this experience, their lives are changed forever.

I would hope that each of us would recognize how this also applies to us. So, I encourage you my, Brothers & Sisters, to take this story to heart. There is not one of us who doesn't need to own things in our lives that still remain an obstacle between ourselves and Our Lord. We don't want it to be that way, but sometimes we are just afraid of going out into the desert; being alone with Our Lord; letting him point out those things that are wounding ourselves, and handing them over to Him. We are in the middle of Advent, a time just like those days when John the Baptist invited people out into the desert to critique their lives so that they would be prepared for the Messiah, who, through His teachings, Crucifixion, Death and Resurrection would reveal how genuine God's love is for them. All they would need to do is be genuinely honest about themselves, and that began in the desert with John. For us, within the Catholic tradition, celebrating the Sacrament of Reconciliation is a step into the desert and I'd encourage you to include it as part of your preparation for Christmas.

Your brother in Christ,



### **DON'T SHOOT THE MESSENGER**

While proclaiming the coming Christ is a thing of joy, John's words are also harsh, reminding us to repent and prepare. People were threatened by them two thousand years ago, and some still are today. People can hear them and be turned off by “fire and brimstone,” and none of us like to be told what to do. But think about it.

This year, we have all engaged in social distancing and endured hardships to protect our families and others.

Similarly, when you have company coming, you do house cleaning, meal prep, and lots of things to make the place ready for the arrival of your guests—necessary preparation. So we as individuals must make ourselves ready for the coming Christ to reside in us. This may mean repenting for sins, seeking the sacrament of penance, or taking time with a spiritual director. Perhaps it means carving out more times and places for Christ to be born in our hearts or taking on another spiritual practice. Maybe it means simply doing what the psalm asked and using our eyes and ears and mind and heart to seek Christ.

**Collections:** November 22; Parish @ \$2178, Candles @ \$29, All Souls @ \$10, Seminary @ \$20, Christmas Flowers @ \$80 AND Nov 29th; Parish @ \$2491, Christmas Flowers @ \$165 Big Thanks

**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!!

**Special Collection: Religious Retirement Fund:**  
December 5th & 6th

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

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

### **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Necessity is the plea for every infringement on human rights. It is the argument of tyrants.

—William Pitt the Younger

**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](http://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](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net) to make arrangements to meet him. Thank you. We are ready to welcome you.

## **December 6, 2020 - 2nd Sunday of Advent**

**Saturday - Dec 5th -**

**Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm**

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Sunday - Dec 6th - Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM: Bill & Janice Bowman (Bernie Boylan)

**Monday - Dec 7th – St. Ambrose, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9AM: Virus Protection

**Tuesday - Dec 8th - Holy Day of Obligation: The Immaculate Conception of Blessed Virgin Mary**

9AM: Intentions of Bob Gillespie ( Lay Carmelite Community)

12 Noon AND 7PM Mass additions - Holy Day

**Wednesday - Dec 9th – St. Juan Diego Cuauhtatoatzin**

*Exposition of Blessed Sacrament*  
9AM: Kenny Kirkwood (Helfant Family)

**Thursday - Dec 10th - Advent Weekday**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday - Dec 11th - St. Damasus I, Pope**

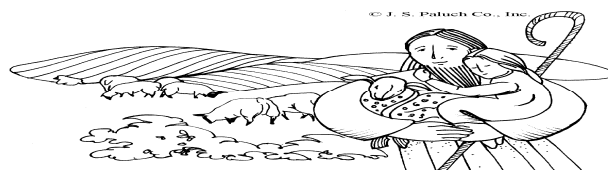
9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Saturday - Dec 12th – Our Lady of Guadalupe**

9AM:

### **ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE**

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



*Like a shepherd  
he feeds his flock*

**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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Special instructions:

Please call Tom @ 610-749-2684  
Or email [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net)

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