

# Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

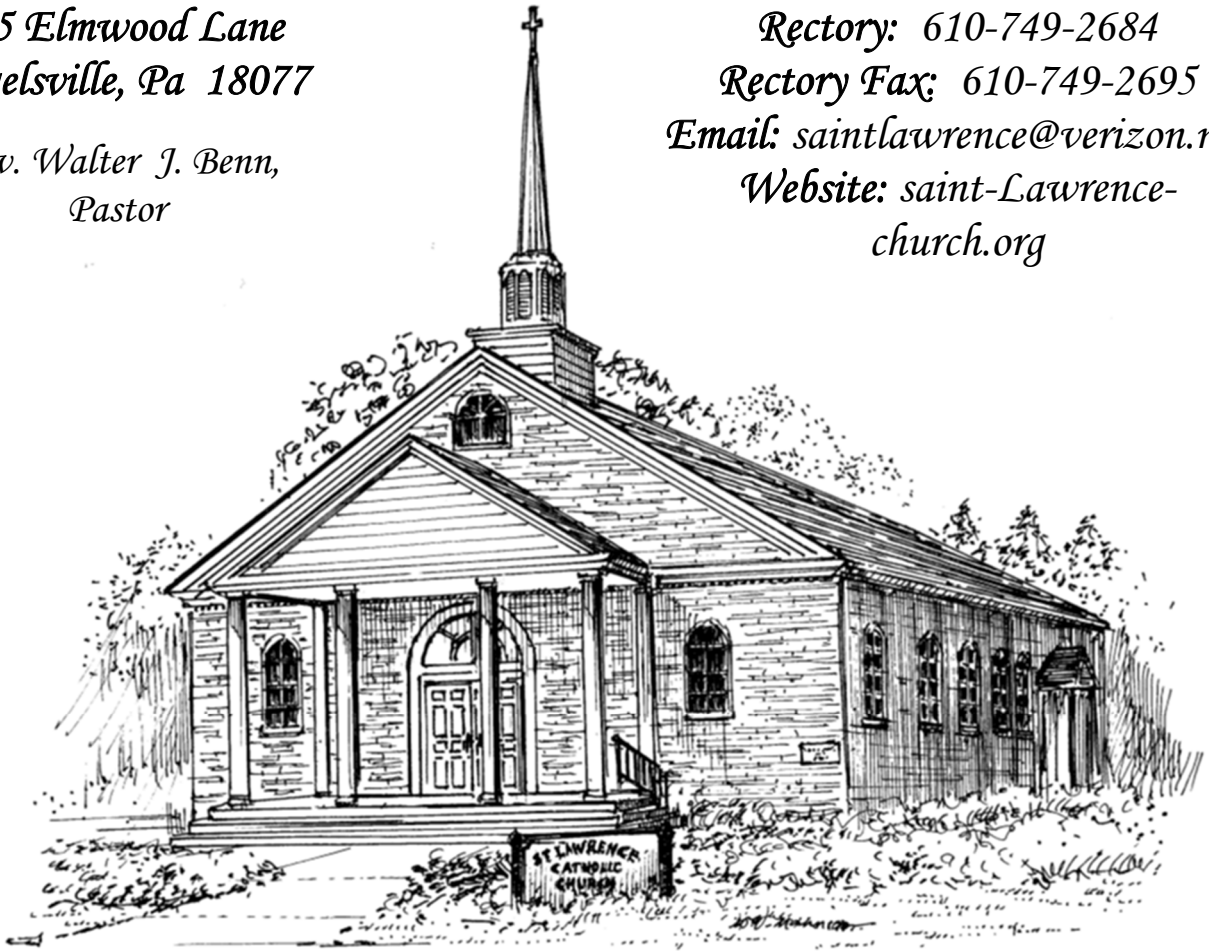
Rev. Walter J. Benn,  
Pastor

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! February 21, 2021

While we started the Season of Lent four days ago on *Ash Wednesday*, I think many of us feel that today, the First Sunday Of Lent is when we really begin in earnest. Perhaps, it is because we are celebrating its beginning *together*. Taking on a challenging undertaking somehow seems easier when we benefit from the community of others who share the same belief, will break the same sweat, experience the same difficulties and take the same risks. This is a very human thing. This is a good thing. This is an important thing. However, one of the basic aspects of discipleship is that it begins with a fundamental choice, which can only be made by the individual; no one can make it for him or herself. St. Mark reflects on when and how Jesus made this choice, and prepared to live it in just two sentences: "*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beasts, and the angels ministered to him.*" There are many important aspects to the Holy Season of Lent, and I'll do my best to comment on them over our next forty days in the desert; however, as we begin this Season of Lent, I don't think we could be better served than by spending time reflecting over and praying over these two sentences. If we are going to participate in Lent, if we expect to encounter the Father during this Lent, if we expect to understand and appreciate the significance of the events of Holy Week, if we expect to be encouraged by the promise of Our Lord's Resurrection on Easter Sunday, then we must allow God's Holy Spirit to drive us out into our own deserts. For Jesus, the desert was a place where his senses would be free of distractions: no entertainment, no interaction with other people, only the most basic of food, with only enough water to stay hydrated. In a sense, he created an existence where he would learn to be in total dependence upon the Father and the angels, which the Father provided for his protection. The desert was also the place where Jesus would become attuned to the voice of the Father and most importantly, the will of the Father. They would have each other's undivided attention for 40 days! Because of what the Father was about to ask of the Son, how could the Son learn otherwise? Many people will argue that all of that deprivation would be a distraction to them: the hunger, the thirst, the loneliness, the threats of wild animals. Perhaps in the beginning. However, in reality, it was the only way for Jesus to focus all of His energies on the only thing that would be important; namely, inspiring us to die to the shallow things of this world, the things which

our world insists should be important to us. That's a heck of a way to get one's spiritual priorities in order. In truth, for each disciple, it is the only way. This is why Lent is so important within Christianity.....each of us needs to decide how important Christ is in our lives. The only way to do that is to spend time with him and the Father. So, my sisters & brothers, how are each of us going to spend Lent? What are we going to do with Lent? "*The Spirit drove Jesus out into the desert, and he remained in the desert for forty days, tempted by Satan. He was among wild beast, and the angels ministered to him.*"

Your brother in Christ,



### Clear Conscience

Usually, the first reading has something in common with the gospel. Today's however, has more in common with the second reading from St. Peter. They both talk about Noah and the ark, where the few good people were saved by going through the water. Peter compares that to the waters of Baptism, in which we are saved by God. Just as God washed away the evil of the world in the waters of the flood, so the waters of Baptism made us into a new people who have clear consciences, both because God has forgiven our sins and because we promise to follow only Him.

That leads to the Gospel, where Jesus is tempted by Satan. But unlike the people of Noah's time, Jesus does not fall to the temptations. Instead, he comes out of the desert, telling us to repent and believe in the good news.

That means we have a choice to make: Do we accept this kingdom and repent, or do we ignore our baptism and do what we want? Do we still have a clear conscience when we think of how much time we spend getting to know Jesus? Ever pray or read the bible outside of church? Do we spend near as much on the poor, as we do for our entertainment? Next time you see a rainbow, think about the covenant that God made with Noah. Just as God's promises get better and better till the coming of Jesus, we are challenged to be more and more like Him. Are you satisfied with just a promise that God won't destroy us all in a flood? Or are you ready to live the New Covenant that Jesus promises to those who will follow him?

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**Collections:** February 14 Parish @ \$??????. Catholic Charities @ \$?. Reports next week do to impending weather. Thank you.

**Mass Schedule:** No Mass Services on February 22-23-24-25-26. Readings & Communion Distribution Only. Normal schedule resumes starting Saturday 2/27 @ AM daily Mass

**Parish Office:** will be closed 2/25 & 26 & 3/1

**Catholic Charities 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 Charities, not St. Lawrence.**

**Pope Francis Proclaims Holy Year to St. Joseph**  
On the 150<sup>th</sup> 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.

### **THE QUALITY OF CHANGE**

To change and to change for the better are two different things.

### **BEAUTY IN FORGIVENESS**

Humanity is never so beautiful as when praying for forgiveness, or else forgiving another.

**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.

## **February 21, 2021 - First Sunday of Lent**

**Saturday - Feb 20th -**

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

5PM: Fr. Robert Breen, Pastor (Tom Labant)

**Sunday - Feb 21st - Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM: Joyce DiMaggio (Janet Achuff)

**Monday - Feb 22nd – The Chair of St. Peter, Apostle**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Tuesday - Feb 23rd - St. Polycarp, Bishop/Martyr**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Wednesday - Feb 24th – Lenten Weekday  
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Thurs. - Feb 25th - Lenten Weekday**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday - Feb 26th - Lenten Weekday**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Saturday - Feb 27th - Lenten Weekday**

9AM: Poor & Hungry of the World

**Fast & Abstinence :** persons 14+ years old abstain from meat on Ash Wed., all Fridays of Lent & Good Friday. Persons 18+ years to 59 inclusive, fast by limiting themselves to one full meal on Ash Wed. & Good Fri. while other meals are light in nature.

### **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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Special instructions:

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

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