

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

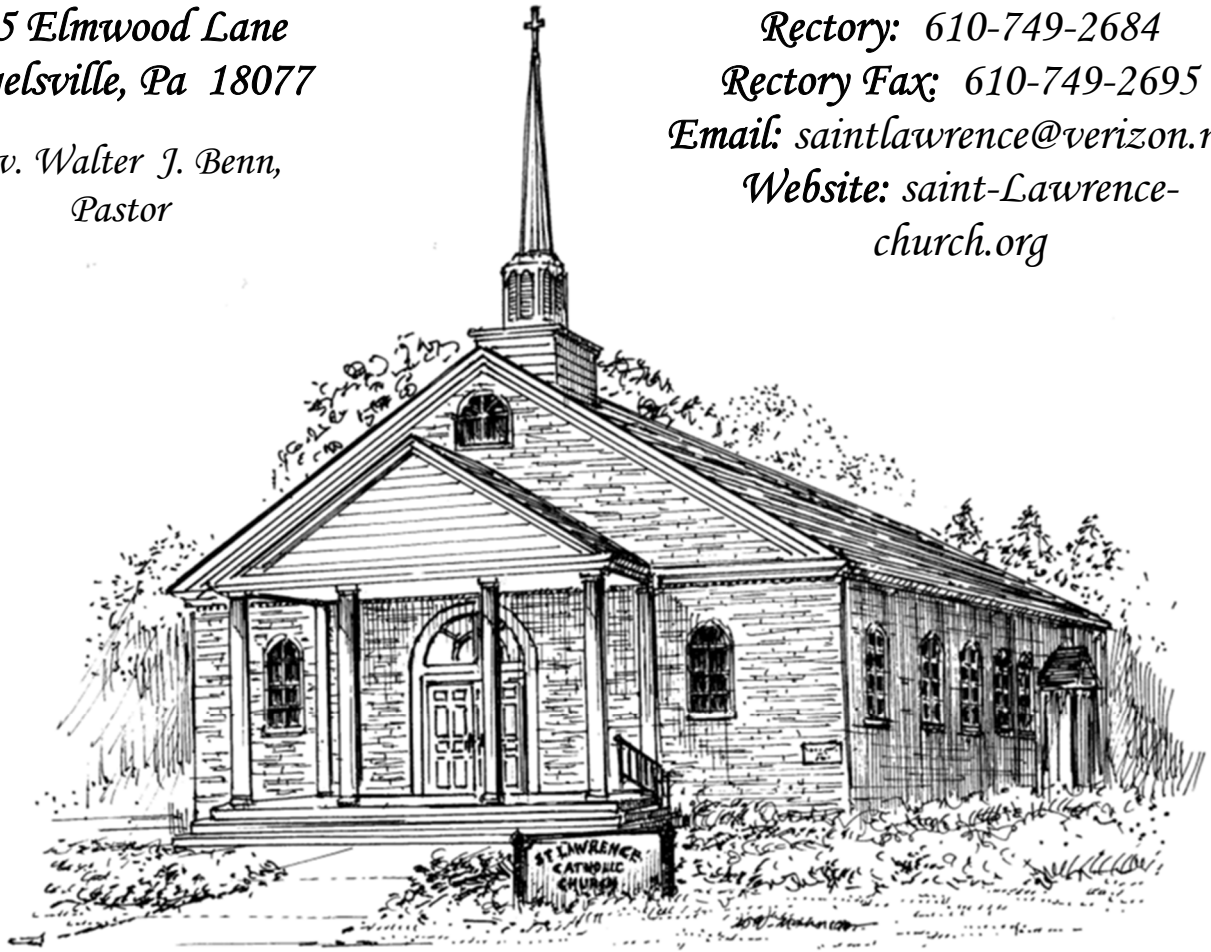
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

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! January 3, 2021

Today is the *Feast of the Epiphany*, that occasion when the Magi visited the Holy Family in Bethlehem. It is a beautiful story, but one in which St. Matthew already begins to prepare his readers for the mission, message and purpose of Our Lord, as Messiah, all of which will include the Cross of Calvary. Even though He is only a few days old, Jesus' goodness is perceived as a threat to some as displayed by King Herod. For others, He has the opposite effect; He draws people to Himself and in doing so, He draws them to the Father. He inspires them. Most importantly, we see in the Three Magi, that He draws **all** people to God, not just the Chosen People of Israel, but those who were perceived to be foreign to God; namely, the Gentiles. The Magi take risks traveling many days, through very dangerous lands, at their own expense, arriving as foreigners. Yet, because they are persons who seek to become close to God, they come without fear and only with joy. These men were not fools, nor were they religious nuts. The Magi were men of Faith, and because they were, like Joseph & Mary, their efforts to be holy *predisposed* them to hear the Holy Spirit of God and to respond to it. They display one of the essential ingredients of any disciple; namely, because they know that God is greater than themselves, they are comfortable in placing Him ahead of themselves. The burden is not on God to chase them around or to struggle to get their attention; rather, they are quite comfortable in surrendering.....submitting to the greatness of God. This becomes their Peace, their source of Joy, their source of direction. Their compass was not so much the Star, as it was their Faith!

What can we say of ourselves? Are we like the insecure and selfish Herod, who trusts in only what he can control, and destroys what he can't? Or, are we like the sleepy town of Bethlehem, who is oblivious to the Divine goodness while He is in their midst? Or, can we say that we are working at being like the three *Magi*? At this stage in our lives, do we put the burden on God to fight for our attention? Have we worked at drawing closer to Him so that when He speaks to us, we can recognize His voice? Each day of our lives, do we work at making room for Him in our heart, so that when he arrives, we are comfortable with Him and His Way? If God were to perform a spiritual autopsy on you today, what would he find? A self-serving Herod? A spiritually ambivalent Bethlehem? A *Seeker*, someone who is aware of God's love; someone who is so comfortable with the goodness of God and inspired by it, that she/he opens the treasures of their heart

to Him through every person in her/his life? As we begin another year, what will you make of 2021? Where will you let God take you?

Your brother in Christ,



Little Drummer Boy

Did you know that the only reason we say that there were three wise men is that they brought three gifts? And these special gifts--gold, frankincense, and myrrh--tell us much.

When one king visited or sent an ambassador to another, he would give a gift of gold to show that he acknowledged the kingship of the other. The second gift is a type of incense, which was used in Jesus time to worship God. The gift of myrrh is oil used to anoint the dying. So these gifts remind us of Jesus' kingship, divinity, and his dying for us.

So what gifts do we have for Jesus? Maybe we can take a hint from the wise men. If we acknowledge Jesus as king, maybe a better gift than gold would be to pledge our obedience to him. A better way than burning incense to pay homage to Jesus' divinity is to take time to pray throughout the day. As for the gift of myrrh, we can give Jesus the crosses we bear each day.

The song "Little Drummer Boy" reminds us that the best gift is not necessarily the most expensive.

Instead, it is the simple gift that only we can give. Let Epiphany remind us to offer our lives to Jesus each day.

Tom Schmidt, Copyright (c) J. S. Paluch Co.

Collections: December 20th Parish @ \$2409,
Thank You.

Winter Scripture Study!

St. Lawrence Parish will be hosting its next Scripture Study starting Tuesday, January 5, 2021. This is a 7-week Study on St. Paul's **Second letter to the Corinthians**. Like the children within every family, the various churches of the baby Church had their own personalities, quirks and needs. This Study will help us understand how St. Paul helped the Christians in Corinth to navigate those challenges. We encourage all of you to consider participating in this study. Please consider inviting a friend or family member. Materials are provided and cost #16.00. Location: Ceadar Hall. Time: 10:30AM – 12 PM. Newcomers, might refer to the Parish website [saint-lawrence-church.org] for further information.

Chili Cook Off: Jan 16, Saturday night following the 5PM Mass in Ceadar Hall. Bring your tums:>

Holy Name Society: meeting on Jan 11th @ 7PM in Ceadar Hall.

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.

THE HOLY STAR

O Father, may that holy star
Grow every year more bright
And send its glorious beams afar
To fill the world with light.

—William Cullen Bryant

January 3, 2021 - Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday - Jan 2nd -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Souls in Purgatory (Helfant Family)

Sunday - Jan 3rd - Mass is Streamed Live

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

**Monday - Jan 4th – St. Elizabeth Ann Seton,
Religious**

9AM: Protection of the Unborn

Tuesday - Jan 5th - St. John Neuman, Bishop

9AM: Protection of all from COVID-19 Virus

**Wednesday - Jan 6th – St. Andre' Bessette,
Religious**

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
9AM: Poor & Down Trodden Innocent

**Thurs. - Jan 7th - St. Raymond of Penafort,
Priest**

9AM: Yes Mass -
Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Friday - Jan 8th - Christmas Weekday

9:30AM: School Age Children in our Country

Saturday - Jan 9th – Christmas Weekday

9AM: All the Needy throughout the World

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

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