

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

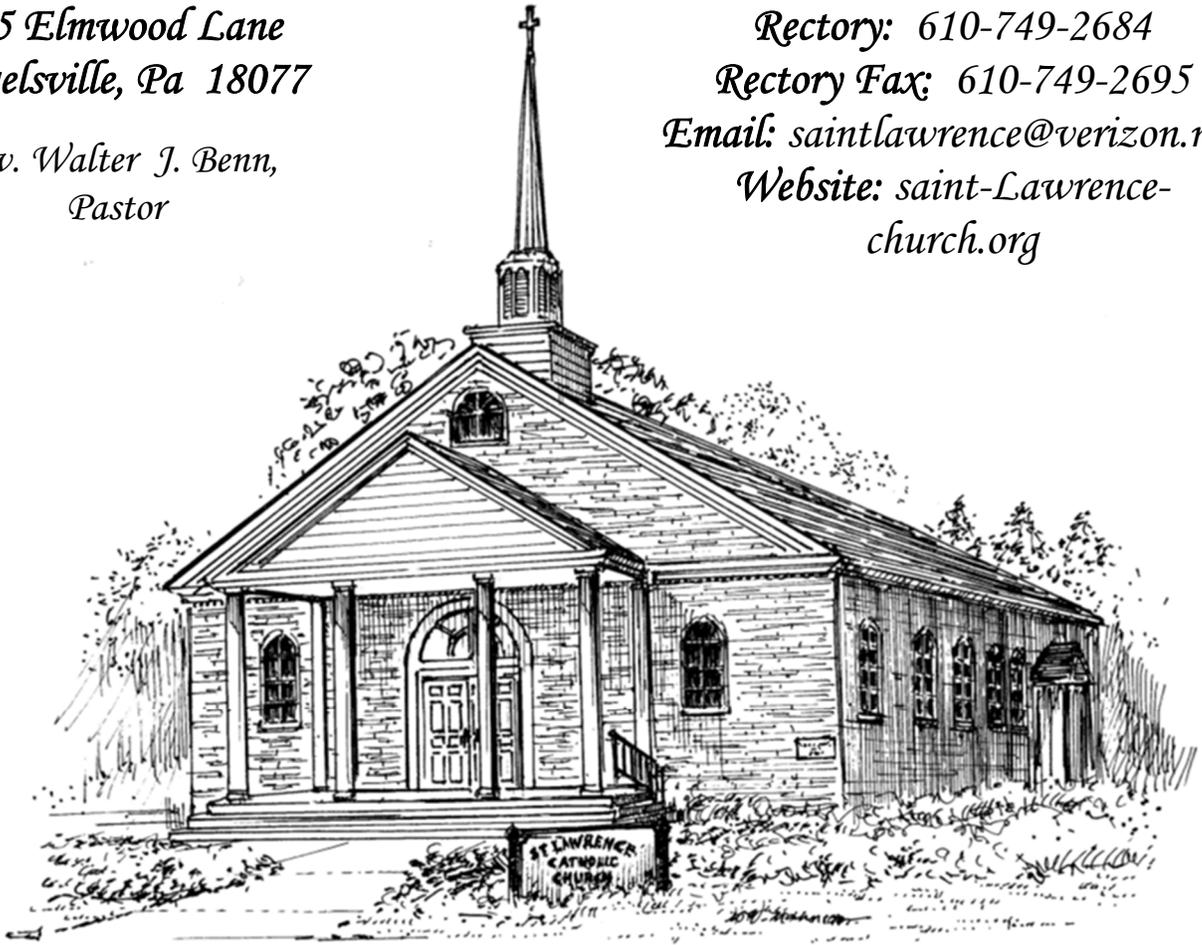
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

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! July 25, 2021

Today's Gospel contains a number of insights about Our Lord. Most scripture scholars immediately focus on the *Multiplication of the Loaves & Fishes* as Our Lord's way of anticipating the institution of the Eucharist. He does this by invoking the same basic words and actions which He will use at the Last Supper when he transforms the Passover Meal into that mystery which captures His Death and Resurrection. "Then Jesus **took** the loaves, **gave thanks** and **distributed** them to those who were reclining, and also as much of the fish as they wanted." These are the foundational actions performed by the priest each time he celebrates the Eucharist. He **takes...he blesses....he gives/distributes**. Another insight which John offers us is the compassion of Our Lord. "A large crowd followed him because they saw the signs he was performing on the sick. Jesus went up the mountain, and there he sat down with his disciples. The Jewish feast of Passover was near. When Jesus raised his eyes and saw that a large crowd was coming to him, he said to Philip, 'Where can we buy enough food for them to eat?'" Throughout all of this is the fundamental notion that people are hungry; their hunger is as much spiritual as it is physical, and at this moment Jesus Christ is the only one who possesses both the power and love to address both types of hungers. However, I would like to draw your attention to another aspect of this Gospel story and it is contained in its last sentence: "Since Jesus knew that they were going to come and carry him off to make him king, he withdrew to the mountain alone." Upon first consideration of this event, it would seem that Our Lord is wasting a critical opportunity to build on His influence and promote the Gospel message which He was teaching. We must ask ourselves, "why?" The short answer to this question is that the response which Our Lord seeks from all those who would be His disciples is one of *faith*. If He is going to be the center of their lives, they must seek this based on his love, not His power. As well-intentioned and well-meaning as these people are, they are attracted to Jesus for the wrong reasons. He will be a spiritual Messiah, not a political Messiah or a cultural Messiah. He came into the world to change hearts, not political conditions. How difficult this must have been for Our Lord to resist. This moment was right up there when the Power of Evil tempts Our Lord three times; one of those temptations was when the devil shows Jesus all of the kingdoms of the world and offers him those

kingdoms if only Jesus would kneel before him and worship him. Notice that as the story concludes, John tells us that Jesus, "Withdrew to the mountain alone." No doubt, even the disciples weren't in agreement with Our Lord for passing on this critical moment. Our Lord simply needed to get away from all of this and regain his spiritual focus.

My brothers & sisters, we would be very naïve if we thought that this kind of temptation is only what the Messiah is exposed to. Hopefully, they don't happen often, but have not each of us been tempted with choices that are both subtle and powerful; where all of those around us would support a response on our part that on the surface had all of the appearances of being justified, but which we knew in our hearts was not the right choice? There is no way possible, that one can make those kinds of choices unless they are a person of prayer, familiar with the life of Our Lord, such as we witness in this weekend's Gospel and nourished by the Eucharist. Knowing our weaknesses and our faults, let us ask Our Lord each day to be women and men whose courageous decisions enable Our Lord to continue building His Kingdom. Your Brother in Christ,



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The feeding of the five thousand (and more) by the seaside is certainly the most famous of picnics. The miracle of the loaves reminds us of the earlier miracle of the wine at Cana. Like the Cana miracle, this one begins with human initiative as the small child responds to the hunger of the crowd by offering a seemingly meager gift. What could be more appropriate for deep summer than a Gospel account of a joyful picnic with Jesus and the generosity of a child at the center?

The coming month of August has always been a time for delight in the bounty of the earth, for picnics by the sea, dinner under the stars, for porch and rooftop, for parks and beaches, and enjoying the best of local crops. August's festivals of Transfiguration and Assumption have long given Christians the best of excuses for feasting on the abundance of summer: corn, tomatoes, pesto, bowls of fresh fruit. Picnics are a sign of the welcome table of God: always room for one more, always plenty to share, always a place of laughter and story-telling and always speaking to us of our deepest longings. Don't let August pass by without a picnic!

—James Field, Copyright © J. S. Paluch Co.

Collections: July 18 Parish @ \$2126, Catholic Foundation @ \$621, Human Development @ \$25, Mission Appeal @ \$8 Thank you.

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

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY, SCHOOL TEACHER:

Regina Academy, Ottsville. Pre-K to Grade 8. Details: <https://www.catholicjobs.com/state/pa> then search Ottsville. OR contact Tami Koerber at tkoerber@rasjb.org or 610-847-5523

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!



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.

July 25, 2021 - Seventeenth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday - July 24th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday - July 25th - Mass is Streamed Live

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

Monday - July 26th – St. Joachim & Anne, Parents of the Blessed Virgin Mary

9AM: Intentions of Dolores Bonk

Tuesday - July 27th - Weekday

9AM: Protection of the Unborn

Wednesday - July 28th – Weekday

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Intentions of Rita Pyatt (Dolores Bonk)

Thursday - July 29th - St. Martha

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution

Friday - July 30th - St. Peter Chrysologus, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9AM: Poor & Hungry of the World

Saturday - July 31st - St. Ignatius of Loyola, Priest

9AM: Souls in Purgatory

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

PRESSURE

A diamond is a chunk of coal that has made good under pressure.

WORKING AND SAVING

Work hard and save your money so when you're old you will be able to buy the things only the young can enjoy.

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