

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

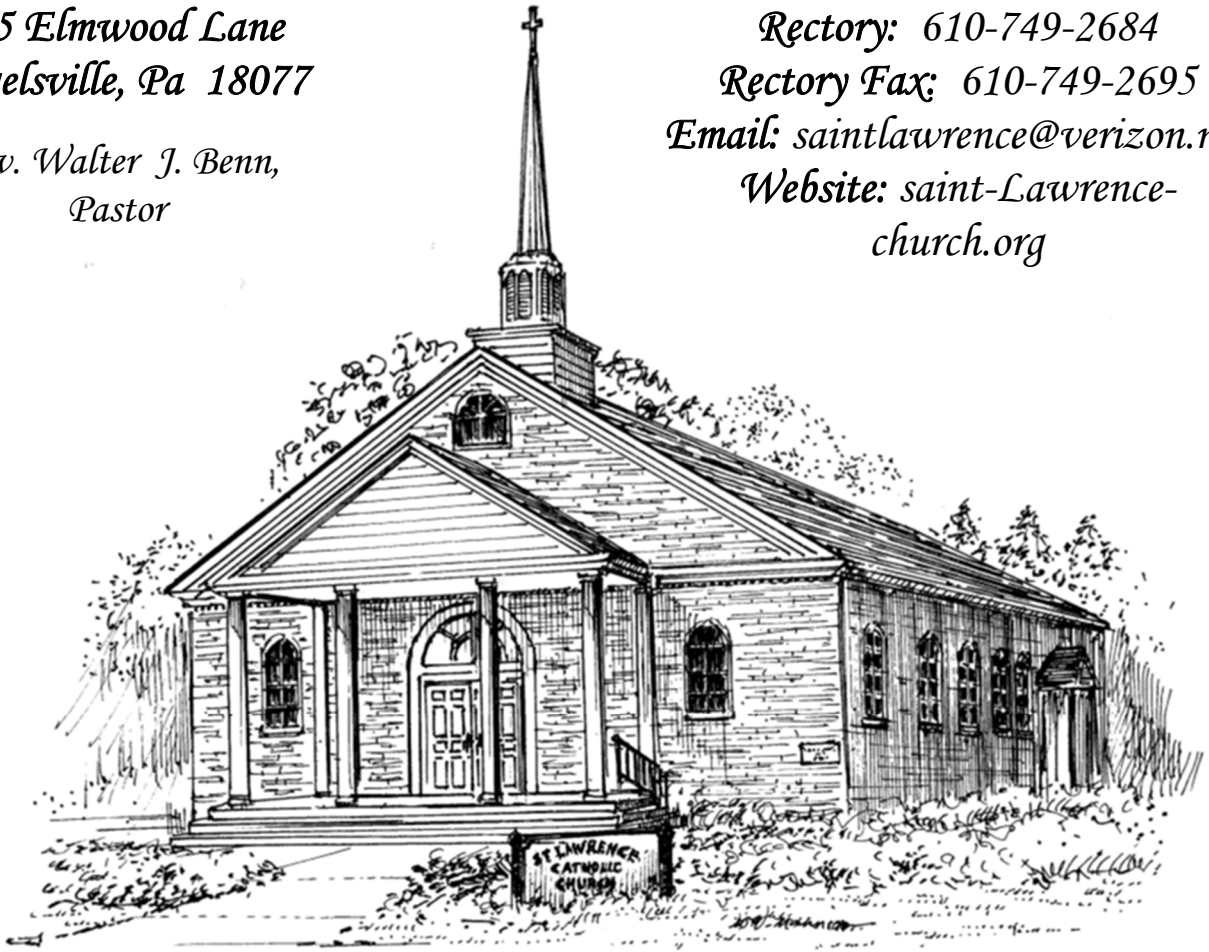
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

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! March 14, 2021

Immediately following last week's wonderful Gospel story of *Jesus & the Woman at the Well*, John provides us with yet another of his beautifully told Gospel stories which take place in the days leading up to Our Lord's *Passion*; namely, the story of the *Man Born Blind*. Like the story of *Jesus & the Woman at the Well*, there are many aspects to this story from which you and I can use as starting points for our personal prayer. You don't have to be a Scripture Scholar to delve into this story; because when we do, we will find ourselves in the behavior of each of the characters. I would like to comment on just one of those characters. "Neither he nor his parents sinned; it is so that the works of God might be made visible through him." One might ask, how could a loving God make an innocent person who has been suffering from the terrible affliction of blindness, wait for decades until He was ready to use that man's affliction to display his divine power and love? It is important for us to pay attention to the details. This is the first time that Jesus has encountered this person. Before this moment, they were anonymous to each other. However, once Our Lord encounters the blind man in his suffering, He has no intention of allowing the man to suffer his handicap one more minute. Notice that the blind man has been and is completely powerless. He depends on everyone & anyone to assist him in the smallest of daily needs. You can be certain that virtually everyone refuses to step toward him out of fear of "catching" his blindness or becoming ritually impure by touching or associating with a sinner, something all people {including the Apostles} presumed was the cause of this *punishment* from God. What are the "works" of God which this powerless man can offer to those around him? It is just that: his powerlessness. He cannot change. He cannot correct; he cannot even advocate for himself.....he can only *receive*. Included in those decades long act of receiving is *waiting*. *Waiting*, sounds so simple; that which is simple isn't necessarily easy. This man knew darkness on so many levels; yet as the story progresses, we see that he has used that time of darkness to find God. As he is jerked from one group of unbelievers to another, his faith and appreciation for God grows stronger, clearer. The great irony is that the blind man grows in *insight*; while those who have sight, namely the Pharisees grow more and more blind! When Our Lord hears that the religious authorities have thrown him out of the community, He seeks the man out, and Our Lord gifts him with the final stage of enlightenment. What is the man's

Response? "He said, 'I do believe Lord', and he worshipped Him." The "Good Works" which Our Lord performed in healing the Blind Man, took but an instant; the "Good Works" which the Blind Man preformed was decades of *waiting* in faith and the humility of *receiving* God's healing. As you & I reflect on this good man and his terrible Cross, let us reflect on our own experiences of *waiting*, and ask Our Lord to help us look to the model of the Man Born Bind; to be persons humble enough to accept the spiritual reality, that we are so poor, that we can only *receive*. Are we Disciple enough to do this? Your brother in Christ,



Pontifical

Good Friday: Pope Francis has asked all Parish members to provide a special focus on this year's Holy Land special collection held on Good Friday, April 2nd benefitting: ministers in the Holy Land, Catholic Schools, Religious Education and helps to preserve our sacred shrines.

GOD UPHOLDS ME: I take for my sureties: The power of God to guide me, the might of God to uphold me, the wisdom of God to teach me, the eye of God to watch over me, the ear of God to hear me, the word of God to give me speech, the hand of God to protect me, the way of God to go before me, the shield of God to shelter me.

—St. Patrick

Saying, Doing, or Being?

St. Paul tells us in his letter to the Ephesians that we are saved through grace: God's actions of sending his Son to die for us, and raising Jesus from the dead show the love God has for us. It comes entirely from God. When Paul says that no one can boast about being saved, he means that we can't add up our good deeds like reward points for heaven. He also means that we can't brag about our faith because we can recite the creed or answer an altar call. So if being saved is not a matter of saying the right things, or doing good deeds, what is it? The answer comes from the gospel. Jesus tells us that he will be lifted up, or crucified, so that we can believe in him and have eternal life. When we "believe in" someone, we put our love and trust in that person. We know that we are loved and so respond by giving love. Our response of love inspires us to stop being selfish and start noticing that others need our help. Jesus describes it as living in the light: we are not ashamed to help someone, forgive someone, or comfort someone. That brings us back to the question about salvation: it is not something we do or say. It is what God does for us. Our response of faith is also his gift. So when we recognize all that God has done for us and believe in his Son Jesus, the Spirit will guide us to live that faith and share it with others.

Collections: March 7 Parish @ \$2624, Rice Bowl @ \$25, Fuel @ \$78, Thank you.

Special Collection: March 7th; Church in Africa; March 14th Church in Latin America. These are different collection. Do your best to help. God Bless.

Knights of Columbus: meeting on March 15 @ 7:30PM @ Ceader Hall

Catholic Charites 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 Charites, not St. Lawrence.**

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. Amen.



March 14th Daylight Savings Time Begins

EGiving: 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 donor. 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.

March 14, 2021 - Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday - Mar 13th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Intentions of Sally Hand (Twomey Family)

Sunday - Mar 14th - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Thomas Busacco (Anna Fusco)

Monday - Mar 15th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Honor of St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary

Tuesday - Mar 16th - Lenten weekday

9AM: Julia Jones (Jones Family)

**Wednesday - Mar 17th – St. Patrick, Bishop
Exposition of Blessed Sacrament**

9AM: Intentions Tom Senior B Day (Senior Family)

**Thurs. - Mar 18th - St. Cyril of Jerusalem,
Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday - Mar 19th - Lenten ABSTINENCE;
St. Joseph, Spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Saturday - Mar 20th - 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

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