

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! May 23, 2021

Understandably, the story of Pentecost catches a lot of people's attention, regardless of whether one is a believer, indifferent to God or an atheist. Everything within the Pentecost story speaks of **P-O-W-E-R**. There's the powerful wind that blows through the *Upper Room*. Then there are the "tongues as of fire" that appear over the Apostles' heads. Then, the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit; they "began to speak different languages." Most impressive of all, is that the Father was returning to the very people who had betrayed his Son, and still offered them His love. Nevertheless, there is one aspect of this story that most people overlook and which is just as important; namely, that the Apostles had not given up...they may have run, but they did not run away. They stayed together and waited for Our Lord's next move. They were a wounded community; definitely a flawed community, but the only way God's *Holy Spirit* would come to them was as a **C-O-M-M-U-N-I-T-Y**, as a believing body. How effective do you think God's Holy Spirit would have been if He had to track each of them down individually? It is an essential part of Catholic theology and spirituality that one of the essential ways in which we encounter Our Lord is within Community. Faith is built together. Faith is strengthened together. Imperfect faith can only be healed together. Faith does not come into existence or thrive in a vacuum. Certainly, there is an important place for our personal relationship with God, but what anchors that personal relationship is how we encounter Our Lord within a faith community. We speak of the "Community of believers", "Community of Saints", "the College of Cardinal/Bishops". When issues of our beliefs and teachings arise, our Bishops meet as the successors of those original Apostles who met in the Upper Room on Pentecost Sunday, i.e., as a Community. Like the Apostles in the pre-Pentecost weeks, they stay together as long as necessary until the Holy Spirit helps them to get it right. It is our belief that God speaks and empowers us best when we pray and act together. This is how we understand God's command to Moses and the Israelites through His commandment to "Keep holy the Sabbath". He doesn't need to hear from us; it is we who need to stay close to Him! It is wrong for us to be unavailable to Our Lord's Holy Spirit by not coming together, praying together, listening to Him together.

There are circumstances which prevent some sisters and brothers from being able to join the community: poor health, inability to drive or be driven and distance. Certainly, the present dangers of the Covid-driven Pandemic are serious reasons. Has not our experience of the limitations caused by the Pandemic taught us how poor and malnourished we are when we are unable to gather with each other in Faith through our celebration of the Eucharist? Our celebration of the Eucharist is not some kind of sentimental trip down *Memory Lane*; rather it is our common effort to return to Calvary, the Tomb, the Upper Room, waiting, watching, hoping, praying for the Lord's presence. Each time we do, we are affirmed by each other's Faith.

So, my brothers and sisters, let us not look past how critical our life as a parish community is, especially as it is anchored by its celebration of the Eucharist. Despite our short-comings, we contribute to the health of our spiritual family by how much we live the Eucharist. When we do, we will enrich the faith of those in our Parish and in the larger Church; and we, in turn, will be enriched by their faith. That is the Divine **power** which our world hungers for, but all too often is afraid to believe in.

Your brother in
Christ,



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

The roots of today's "birthday of the Church" are in an ancient Jewish festival of springtime harvest, seven weeks after Passover. Now, seven weeks after Easter, our great fifty days of rejoicing come to an end. In the countries where the Church first came to life, this is a time of harvest, and the first fruits appear: apricots and lemons, cherries and strawberries. Even in our gardens, herbs are abundant and asparagus, that close relation of the Easter lily, comes fresh to our tables. The earth is laden with so much new life, and that has always been a sign to Christians of Easter's glory. Pentecost means "fifty" and our fifty days of Easter joy are complete. This Sunday is a day to savor the glory of Easter once more: picnics and cookouts, walks by the water, time in the garden—are all ways of extending the feast. Notice the paschal candle today, still burning during Mass. Our Easter celebration now complete, the candle will soon be moved to a place near the baptismal font, and be lighted at baptisms and funerals as a silent witness to Christ's abiding presence.

Collections: May 16 Parish @ \$1517, Catholic Home Missions @ \$25, Ascension Thursday @ \$166 Thank you.

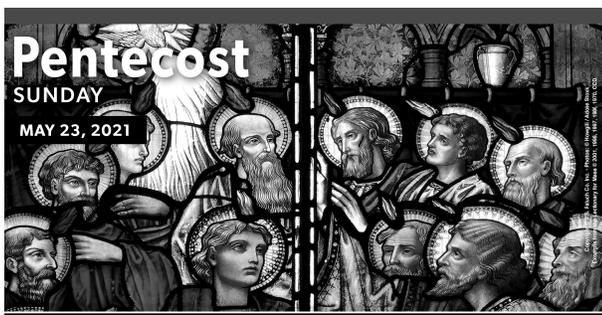
Special Mass: *Year of St. Joseph.* Mass will be celebrated @ **7PM on 6/7, 7/5, 8/2, 9/6, 10/4 & 11/2/21** in Honor of St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary. In addition to the normal 9AM Weekday Mass.

Veterans Memorial Program: Sunday, May 30th @ 6PM @ William Township Veterans Memorial Campus, @ 655 Cider Press Rd., Williams Township Building. All are invited to show our appreciation for all service Men & Women.

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.



Jesus breathed on them and said to them, "Receive the Holy Spirit. Whose sins you forgive are forgiven them, and whose sins you retain are retained."
John 20:22-23

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 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: saint-lawrence@verizon.net to make arrangements to meet him. Thank you. We are ready to welcome you.

May 23, 2021 - Pentecost Sunday

Saturday - May 22nd -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Intentions of Robert Morgia (Dolores Bonk)

Sunday - May 23rd - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM Joan Morgia (Dolores Bonk/Jeanette Talese)

Monday - May 24th – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of the Church

9AM: Matteo Sebastiano (Joe/Sharon Affuso)

Tuesday - May 25th - St. Bede the Venerable, Priest & Doctor of the Church

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Wednesday - May 26th – St. Philip Neri, Priest
*Exposition of Blessed Sacrament***

9AM: Protection of the Unborn

Thursday - May 27th - St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday - May 28th - Weekday

9AM: Barbara Weeks - Altar Flower Supplier (St. Lawrence Parish Community)

Saturday - May 29th - St. Paul VI, Pope

9AM: Lisa Jones (Jones Family)

A PRAYER TO THE SPIRIT

Holy Spirit,
who sent Christ Jesus
to carry the Good news to the poor,
we pray to you:
Help us to continue your work
by serving the poor, our brothers and sisters.

Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to Abortion and Respect for all Life! Tom Trotter IV, 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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Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

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