

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

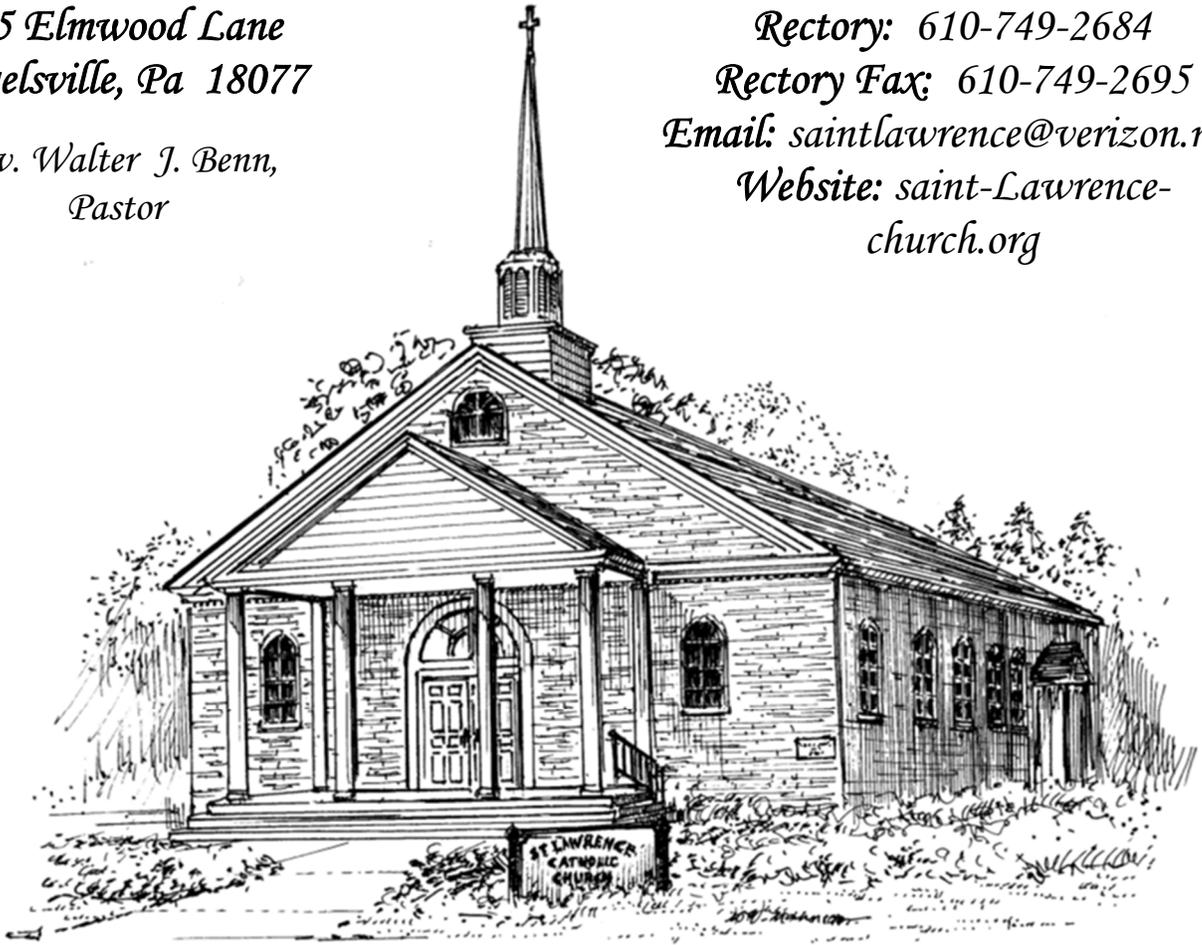
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Rectory Fax: 610-749-2695

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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 9, 2021

This weekend's First Reading is from the *Acts of the Apostles*. Although it should not be treated as a history of the Early Church, *Acts* provides a reflection on many of the events that took place during those days following Pentecost. It is a book that is easy to read and filled with inspiring stories of the Infant Church as it is coming to grips with itself and the Mission that Christ has planned for it. Today's reading from the *Acts* touches on a story of two conversions: Cornelius, a Roman soldier who is Captain of the Roman regiment posted in Caesarea, and St. Peter. Although a pagan, Cornelius is a man of faith. We are told, "He and his whole family worshiped God. He also did much to help the Jewish poor people and was constantly praying to God". Today's Reading is a small section of the story of Cornelius' conversion to Christ, as well as his family's. This story is also a reflection on St. Peter and his continuing conversion. Until this incident Peter, like all Jewish Christians, believed that they should continue observing the religious practices of their Jewish Faith, one of which is that every Jew should never enter the house of any Gentile or even associate with them lest they become ritually "unclean". To do so was to be unfaithful to God. Through a series of visions which both men received from God, they are brought together which culminates in a visit from Peter, who enters Cornelius' home and interacts with his family and guests. As each man explains the vision which they received, Peter realizes that this is the work of Our Lord. Peter's vision took place in the form of a recent dream, where a large sheet was lowered in front of Peter with all kinds of animals in it, animals which Jews were forbidden to eat. A voice commands Peter to kill and eat some of these animals. When Peter objects, the voice lectures him that he is not to call "unclean" something that God indicates is clean. Peter comes to understand that Our Lord is indicating to him that it is time for the Gentiles to be invited into the church.

I highly encourage you to dig out your family bible; find this story {Chapters 10 & 11} and read it. It is a wonderful story, with, not surprisingly, a beautiful teaching from Our Lord. What is the gist of this story? 1] That God loves all people, even those who are very different from us and seemingly hostile to God. 2] That we must be flexible within our religion. That we have an obligation to offer Our Lord's invitation to become a member of His family, regardless of how hopeless they appear. 3] That we must be ready {within reason} to accommodate

those who are responding to Our Lord and who, like Cornelius, have moved towards God.

"Accommodating" is not code language for compromising, but it does mean that we must be ready to relax traditions which aren't critical to the truths of the Gospel. Initially, the conversion of Cornelius, his family and all who would be a part of his circle of Romans was cause for serious upsetment for the Jewish Christians of the Apostle's time. They too would need to heed the direction of the Lord's *Holy Spirit*, if the new life of the Church was to blossom. Many hearts would need to be stretched if the Church was to grow and become universal.

Certainly, there is a lesson in these events for us. We live in a world that seems, not only hell-bent on rejecting God and Judeo-Christians values, but is very comfortable in attacking the Catholic Church. It might be tempting to just go to our bunker, hunker down and endure. Yet, Our Lord calls us to be like St. Peter, open; listening to His *Holy Spirit* and ready to offer His Good News to the World, even when it seems that no one is listening or even intends to listen. It is amazing how the Lord's *Holy Spirit* works and that includes through seemingly ill-equipped and unqualified followers such as you and me. So, my brothers and sisters, keep this in mind when you are dealing with that family member who prides himself in rejecting religion, especially organized religion such as the Church. Keep this in mind when you suffer the snotty remarks of those at work, in school or in the neighborhood who always seem to delight in every opportunity to give you a little zing because they know you are a person of faith. Often, they are the very ones, whom Our Lord is speaking to the most and when he does, it will probably be through you. 

Your brother in Christ,

TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Just as the origins of Lent have to do with accompanying people in the final stages of preparation for baptism at Eastertime, so does the structure of the Easter season help the newly received Catholics take root in the community. This is the season of "mystagogy," which means "reflection on the mysteries." This means that new Catholics are remembering the sacraments by which they become one with us, and are sorting out the implications for their everyday life. They can understand the excitement of Cornelius and his family in the first reading, filled with the Holy Spirit, and so eager to begin

their new life that they overwhelm St. Peter. The second reading and the Gospel today likewise help our new brothers and sisters explore their new life as an experience of God's tender love.

Long ago, our tradition named these newly baptized adults and children the "neophytes," from Greek words meaning "newly planted." Newly planted in the garden of faith, they look to us to provide the fertile soil in which their new life can take root and grow. You can help. If you have "neophytes" in your parish, a card or note of welcome, or warm words of congratulation, are still timely. It's Easter!

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

Collections: May 2 Parish @ \$1266., Catholic Home Missions @ \$225, Candles @ \$85, Rice Bowl @ \$25, Catholic Charities @ \$50, Catholic Foundation @ \$420 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.

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.

Crab Cake Sale: benefiting St. John the Baptist, Ottsville initiative to replace their school building roof. Order forms in vestibule taken May 8 & 9 + 15 & 16 with pick up on 5/22 between 1PM & 4PM at SJB.

Free Free Free: we have 5 windows from the previous exterior church entrance leading to Ceader Hall. Frames are 7ft 10in by 2ft 5in. Interested? You provide your own transport. Contact Steve @ 908-229-2220

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.

May 9, 2021 - Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday - May 8th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Mary Scobo (Jan & Sharon Powell)

Sunday - May 9th - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Fr. Breen, Fr. Henry; St. Lawrence Pastors, Deceased (Tom Labant)

Monday - May 10th – St. Damien de Veuster, Priest

9AM: Protection of the Unborn

Tuesday - May 11th - Easter Weekday

9AM: Fr. Breen (Passing Anniversary), Fr. Henry (Tom Labant)

Wednesday - May 12th – St. Nereus & Achilleus, Martyrs; St. Pancras, Martyr

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: William & Dorothy Ausprung (Jones Family)

Thursday - May 13th - The Ascension of the Lord; Holy Day of Obligation

9AM and 12 Noon and 7PM : *Three Masses*

Friday - May 14th - St. Matthias, Apostle

9AM: Prevention Worldwide Religious Persecution

Saturday - May 15th - St. Isidore

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence



Gavin W. Muir

BORN: September 3, 1936
ORDAINED: May 22, 1965
DIED: May 15, 2018

Hear with favor our prayers, which we humbly offer, O Lord, for the salvation of the soul of your servant and Priest, that he, who devoted a faithful ministry to your name, may rejoice in the perpetual company of your Saints. Through Christ our Lord. Amen.

Eternal rest grant unto him, O Lord; and let perpetual light shine upon him. May he rest in peace. Amen.

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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Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

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