

Church of Saint Lawrence

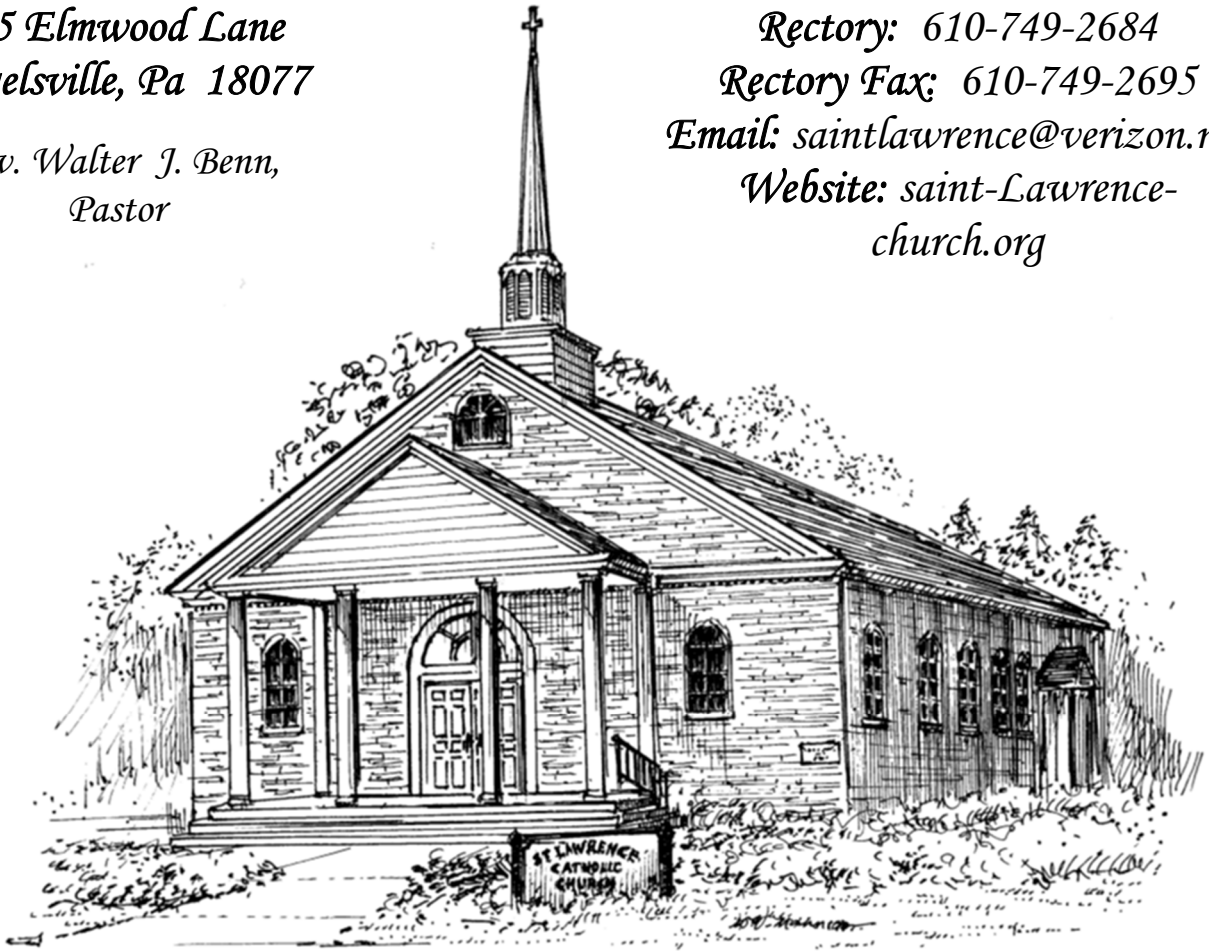
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

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! November 29, 2020

It's the tail end of Thanksgiving Weekend and I hope that it has been an enjoyable weekend for all of you. I also hope that it has served to renew your appreciation of the gifts that God has blessed you with. I hope, too, that it has inspired you to relate to the people around you with the same spirit of generosity, particularly when they need your generosity. To those of you who are guests, we are happy that you the beginning of the Season of *Advent!* For most Americans, the five week period between Thanksgiving & Christmas represents an emotional and psychological marathon. We are bombarded with non-stop messages of what we need and what we need to do in order for December 25th to be a wonderful experience for ourselves and for our loved ones: the food, the toys, the clothes, the sales, the parties, the decorations, the reservations, the travel, the bills. Lost in all of this is the fact that Christmas is a *Holy Day*.....a *Holy Season!* The reason for its *holiness* is that in celebrating it, we are reminded that each of us needs salvation; we need to be saved. Through our sins we have become estranged from God. The reason for our Christmas "*Joy*" is that God chose to become personally involved in our rescue. Like any child who is spoiled rotten by their parents, we can take that love for granted; we can forget the sacrifices & effort behind our parents' countless acts of love. They would never tell us the costs of those sacrifices & effort; it didn't matter to them. All that mattered to them was that you & I were loved. Advent & Christmas are those seasons when we stop to remind ourselves of the sacrifice and efforts behind God's love of each of us. During Advent & Christmas, the burden is not on God to make the season "Joyful"; the burden is on us to rediscover His tireless love for us. Grateful and hopefully inspired, we will choose to use His love by becoming a better person.....a person that lives in His image and likeness. For Christians, those images take on many forms, especially, the image of Our Lord on the Cross. Nevertheless, behind the image of Our Lord on the wood of the Cross, is another image, the Christmas image of Our Lord as a helpless infant on the wood of the manger. In both instances, He is helpless and vulnerable; yet, this is the way in which He "would spoil us rotten" with His love.

During this season of Advent, I encourage you, my brothers & sisters, to meditate on these two images, and ask yourself "What have I been doing with the love that God has given me?" "How have I allowed it to change me?" "In what area of my life do I need to surrender to the power of that love?"

Your brother in Christ,



1st Sunday of Advent

In Advent, we celebrate our hope that the Lord might come more fully into our lives. The first reading from Isaiah voices the hope of sinners for a redeemer. As sinners, we too hope for forgiveness. Unlike Isaiah, we know that God has come to bring us back, when the Father sent his Son, Jesus, to save us. And God's power was manifest in the raising of Christ from the dead. Our faith in Jesus leads us to a new way of looking at the world. We can see what God is doing as well as remembering what God has done.

The Gospel reminds us to look constantly for signs of God's work. Jesus says simply, "Watch!" Like the gatekeepers in Jesus' short parable, we need to keep our eyes open for him. Just as we expect people driving cars to turn off their cell phones and keep their eyes on the road, so we can stop looking for whatever makes us comfortable and watch for ways to love others as God loves us.

When we only look out for ourselves, we may miss the signs of God's presence around us. Instead of looking at the difficulties of life as obstacles, we can watch for them as opportunities to stretch our faith, to rely on God, or to show God's love to a friend. The recent re-translation of the prayers of the Mass can be an opportunity to stretch our faith and our understanding of the Eucharist.

The Corinthians were also watching for the Lord to come. Paul encourages them (and us) by his reminder that we "are not lacking in any spiritual gift" (1 Corinthians 1:7). The Holy Spirit gives us all we need to help each other prepare for the Lord's coming. They were thinking of Jesus as coming in glory. Though we don't see the full glory of the Lord, part of that glory is his presence in the sacraments. In them we celebrate not just the coming of the Lord, but his working in the world. He shares his life with us in baptism, gives us his Spirit in confirmation and himself in the Eucharist, heals us in reconciliation and the anointing of the sick, and calls us to make him present to others in holy orders and matrimony. You could almost say his second coming is taking place now. Watch for it.

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



Collections: November 22nd & 29th will report next week do to bulletin production schedule change. Thank You:>

Angel Tree: will be in vestibule beginning 11/28/20 containing requested gift tags for needy children of parents who receive help from the Lord's Pantry @ St. John the Baptist, Ottsville. ONLY gift cards will be provided this year rather than actual wrapped gifts. Instructions in vestibule. Deadline is Sunday 12/13/20. Thank you!!

Special Collection: Religious Retirement Fund:
December 5-6.

UNWRINKLED

To keep the heart unwrinkled, to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent—that is the triumph over old age.

—Thomas Bailey Aldrich

LIKE A CHILD

One who aspires to the grace of God must be pure, with a heart as innocent as a child's.

—St. Nicholas

BIG AMBITION

Give up your small ambitions; come with me to save the world.

—St. Francis Xavier

Catholic Education Financial Assistance: LAST CHANCE: Forms are now available in vestibule for the Fall 2020/Spring 2021 school year provided by the Trustees of the Ceader Trust. Time sensitive, act now. **Deadline is 11/30/20.** For registered parishioners of St. Lawrence.

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.

November 29, 2020 - 1st Sunday of Advent

Saturday - Nov 28th -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Mary Powell (Powel Family)

Sunday - Nov 29th - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Joseph Ceader Family (Altar Rosary Society)

Monday - Nov 30th – St. Andrew, Apostle

9AM: Intentions of Barbara Sudol (Lay Carmelite Community)

Tuesday - Dec 1st - Advent Weekday

9AM: Intentions of Linda Dull (Lay Carmelite Community)

Wednesday - Dec 2nd – Advent Weekday

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament
9AM: Special Intentions (Ted & Janet Achuff)

Thursday - Dec 3rd - St. Francis Xavier, Priest

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday - Dec 4th - St. John Damascene, Priest & Doctor of the Church

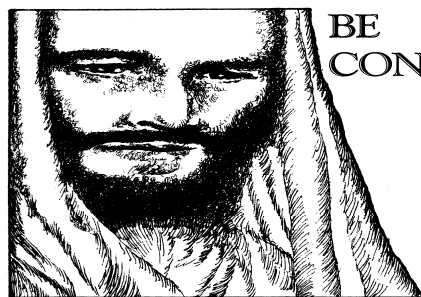
9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Saturday - Dec 5th – Advent Weekday

9AM: Souls In Purgatory (Helfant Family)

ASSIGNMENT SCHEDULE

Lectors, Altar Servers & Extraordinary Ministers:
NO assignments till future notice. You are welcome to volunteer. Thank you for your consideration.



**BE
CONSTANTLY
ON THE
WATCH!**

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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