

Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, Pa 18077

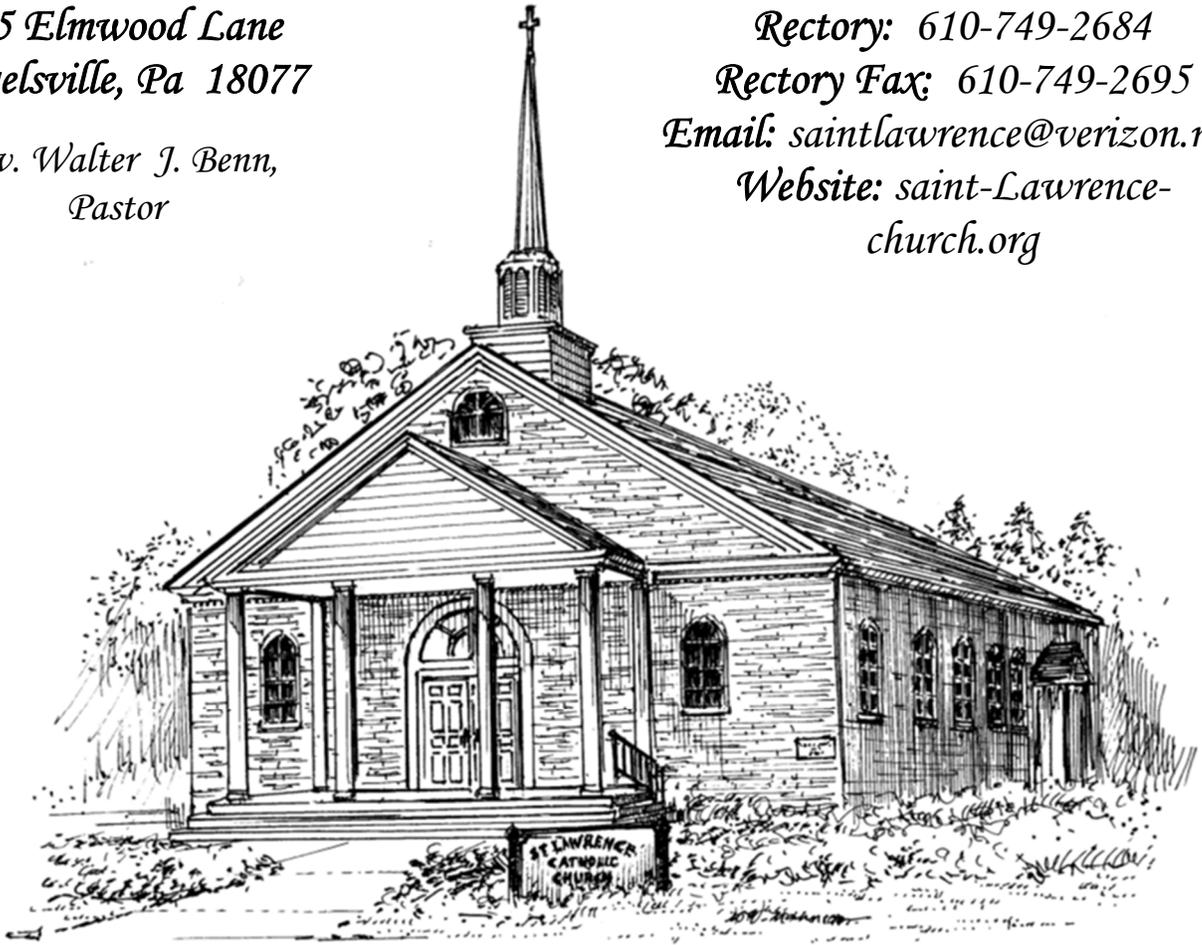
Rev. Walter J. Benn,
Pastor

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! October 3, 2021

This week, it is a real challenge to do justice to all three of today's readings. Each of them deserve time spent in breaking them down so that we can understand how God expects us to live them. Unfortunately, the space limitations of this column won't allow it. So let me focus on an issue raised which I'm sure each of you couldn't ignore and probably have been touch by; namely, *Marriage vs Divorce*. From Day One, the Church has always understood marriage as a *covenant* {not a *contract*} between two people. On the surface, *contracts* and *covenants* look the same; however, they are fundamentally different and it is the responsibility of both parties to know that and appreciate it before they **publicly** formalize their relationship. If they do not appreciate the difference, they will be incapable of living that relationship and have no business entering into it.

A second fundamental aspect in our understanding of the Sacrament of Matrimony is that it is **public!** This does not mean that everyone has a right to be invited to the wedding; rather, it means that everyone has a right to be inspired to draw closer to Our Lord by what of Christ they witness and experience within the love of those couples. All Sacraments are intended to be **public**. Discipleship is not a personal thing; it is a **public** thing! From the moment we were baptized, Our Lord tasks us with the responsibility to draw all people to Our Lord through what people will witness in our behavior, choices and priorities. This is not an option; it is a commitment to Our Lord because of His love to us and the love He calls us to share with others.....those in our lives have a right to this gift. There is no greater example of this experience than can be found in the love which spouses have for each other and their children. How many of us have rejoiced and been inspired by young couples as they struggle to raise their family and grow in their love for each other? How many of us are inspired by their choice to work through the difficulties and sacrifices that every relationship requires as it grows stronger? How many of us share in the celebration of those couples as they celebrate 25-30-50 years of marriage? Those wives and husbands have the scars to show for those years; yet, they now have the joys that match. In a perfect world, everyone would have this experience; yet, as we see in today's Gospel, even in ancient times [3,000+years ago] not everyone's marriage got to the finish line with such joy. In many cases, one or both parties in such marriages didn't bring as much to the table as they or their spouse thought. This involved an honest mistake.

In other cases, one or both parties didn't lay as much ground work for their future as they should have and could have. Our Lord corrects the Pharisees for their justification of divorce, not because he wants any spouse to suffer in an agonizing situation, but because He insists that so many people approached their relationship with each other as a *contract* and not a *covenant*. Think about the covenant relationship God had with the people of Israel; did they or did they not give God plenty of reasons, plenty of times to scream for a divorce from them? They broke His heart many times; yet, He persevered in looking through all of the heart break, and trusted that somehow, His love would reach their essential goodness. This sounds so unreasonable, so unfair, almost demented; yet, have any of you ever met a parent of problem child [some of whom continue to be seriously problematic into their 40's-50's] who ever gave up on that child? The issue is about love.

My brothers & sisters, I know many of you reading this have suffered through terrible marriages and needed to seek not only a divorce from that destructive relationship, but also an annulment, which is the Church's way of recognizing that the previous marriage was doomed from the beginning; in truth the relationship was not a covenant, and therefore incapable of succeeding. Since then, I know you have also found your true soulmate and are enjoying what Our Lord wanted for you since he created you. I am happy for the two of you! There is so much that I could comment on here. However, I would encourage any of you who have suffered through a wounding relationship that you have found your true soul mate and want to have that relationship blessed by Our Lord to contact me. I'd be happy to guide you through the process.
Your Brother in Christ,



TREASURES FROM OUR TRADITION

Using beads for prayer and meditation is an ancient custom, found in many cultures and religions. The Christian rosary dates from the twelfth century, when it provided a way for ordinary Christians to learn about the lives of Jesus and Mary. Alan de la Roche, a fifteenth-century Dominican, preferred "Psalter of Our Lady" to "rosary." This fitting name recalls an explanation of the devotion's origin. Unable to read the one hundred fifty psalms that formed the Church's "official" daily prayer, medieval Christians substituted first one hundred

fifty Pater Nosters, and later one hundred fifty Ave Marias. By meditating on the various mysteries of the rosary while repeating these simple prayers, the faithful could immerse themselves in the whole mystery of the Incarnation and the Resurrection. The dedication of October to the Blessed Virgin Mary is an appropriate reminder of this venerable form of prayer. Faithful Christians everywhere continue to meditate on the mysteries of the rosary, praying in groups or alone. Why not take advantage of this season to renew your acquaintance with the rosary?

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

Collections: Sept 26th Parish @ \$2084, Thank U:>

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, October 10th following the 9:30AM Mass. All are invited.

Holy Name Society: meeting on Oct 11th @ 7PM in Ceadar Hall.

Special Mass: *Year of St. Joseph.* Mass will be celebrated @ **7PM on 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.

St. Peter's Rummage, Soup & Cookie Sale:
will be held on Thursday 10/7 @9AM - 6PM;
Friday 10/8 @ 9AM - 5PM & Saturday 10/9 @
9AM - 12PM in Riegelsville. All are welcome.



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.

October 3, 2021 - Twenty-Seventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday - Oct 2nd -

Confessions: 3:30pm to 4:30pm

5PM: Nathan Burke (Ted & Janet Achuff)

Sunday - Oct 3rd - Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Stanley Duda (Dolores Bonk)

Monday - Oct 4th – St. Francis of Assisi

9AM: Poor & Hungry of the World

7PM: Year of St. Joseph, Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Tuesday - Oct 5th - Blessed Francis Xavier

Seelos, Priest

9AM: Ann Kaspern (Larry & Jane Burger)

Wednesday - Oct 6th – St. Bruno, Priest, Blessed Marie Rose Durocher, Virgin

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Phil Voso (Helfant Family)

Thursday - Oct 7th - Our Lady of the Rosary

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution

Friday - Oct 8th - Weekday

9AM: Blessings, Health, & Safety for Students throughout the School Year

Saturday - Oct 9th - St. Denis, Bishop & Companions, Martyrs; St. John Leonardi, Priest; BVM

9AM: Blessings for the Aged & Infirmed

SPEAKING OF GOD

Almost everything said of God is unworthy, for the very reason that it is capable of being said.

—St. Gregory the Great

ENCOURAGEMENT

As vital as oxygen is to the body, so is encouragement to the soul.

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

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St. Lawrence

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Or email saintlawrence@verizon.net

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