**September 14, 2025 – Exaltation of the Holy Cross**

**Saturday – Sept 13th** – **Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Protection of Armed Services, Law Enforcement, Fire Fighters, EMT’s, Educators

**Sunday – Sept 14th – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM All Teenagers/Young Adults Determining Their Career/Vocation

**Monday – Sept 15th – Weekday – Our Lady of Sorrows**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Tuesday – Sept 16th –Weekday – St. Cornelius, Pope; St. Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs**

9AM**:** Rogelio Orgelio Wendez Flores (Mendez Family)

**Wednesday – Sept 17th – Weekday – St. Robert Bellamine, Bishop**

9:00AM: Those Facing Financial Burdens (Parish Community)

**Thursday – Sept 18th – Weekday –**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Sept 19th – Weekday – St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr**

9:00AM: Intentions of Rex & Mariann Helfant (Helfant Family)

**Saturday – Sept 20th – Weekday – St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest**

9:00AM Chester Sobol (Sobol Family)

**Please Pray for Our Sick and Housebound, Deceased Members, for an End to**

**Abortion and Respect for all Life!**

Lynda Stefanski, Peter Libasci**,** Joseph Bonk, Tom Trotter, Dave Blessing, Jeff Olimpo,

Matt Sebastiano, Maria Middleton, Fern & John Gibson, William Merkle, Russ Funkhouser,

Joseph Jones, Elizabeth Ann Schlotter, Andrew Schlotter, Bethany Steinberg, Joann Thaler,

Julie Petry, Steven Fusco, Greg Gambino, Patrick D. Brown, Douglas Defreest, Jr., Benny

LoScalzo, Steve Ombalski, Jane Burger, Ginny LaBar, Michael Gawronski, Marciano Alves Viera, Bernadette Maszczak, Shawn Kelly, Beth Collins, Nikia Helfant Messier, Anthony Libasci, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

345 Elmwood Lane Rectory: 610-749-2684

Riegelsville, PA 18077 Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

*Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org*

 

**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM, 12 Noon & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday Readings & Communion Distribution Only.

**Eucharistic Adoration**: Wednesday @ 9:30AM – 11AM

**Confessions:** Saturday @ 3:30PM - 4:30PM @ Church. Via Appointment - Contact Rectory

**Holy Name Society**: Meets Monthly; Second Monday @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall (Sept – May)

**Altar Rosary Society:** Meets Monthly; Second Thursday @ 7PM (Sept – May)

**Lay Carmelite Community of St. Teresa of Jesus of Los Andes:** Meets Monthly, First Saturday Following the 9AM Mass in Ceader Hall.

**Marthas & Marys Ministry:** Faith based group, meets First Friday @ 11:30AM @ Ceader Hall

**Weddings:** Contact Rectory for Details. Plans Preferred Minimun 6 Months in Advance.

**Parish PREP Classes &**  **New Parishoners:** Contact Rectory via Phone or email.

**Rectory Office:** Mon-Fri @ 9:30AM – 12 noon

Pastor’s Corner! September 14, 2025

There is nothing worse in life than the deadly combination of pride and a short memory! We get ourselves into so much trouble when we ignore or deny both. This was and is an especially difficult journey to travel when we are young. Recall the advice, guidance and requests which our parents insisted on when we were children, teenagers and young adults: We were not to smoke, no drinking, no drugs; we were critiqued about our driving; cautioned about when we went out on dates, that falling in love with someone is understandable and wonderful, but that if we were not strict with ourselves we would let loose a whole level of passions that would figuratively and take on a life of its own. They would pester us to embrace all kinds of good work habits, like being on time, take responsibility for our rest;

not being afraid to say, “I don’t know how to do that” or “Would you show me”; the importance of saying, “Thank You”; to make time for others who might be alone or include them with our group of friends when they are by themselves; to shovel the snow or cut the grass of an elderly neighbor with a happy face. They required these things of us, not to make us miserable. Instead, they did these things in the hopes that we would understand that our lives will only gain meaning when we respect the gifts God has given us and when we make them available for others. Of course, in our youth, we resented this because we felt it was an intrusion into our time, our rights, and our desire to enjoy life. Of course, too, we were too self-centered to realize that we hadn’t done a thing to deserve these blessings, which they, in their love, offered us without any long face, complaint, or search for a return of that love. Their efforts to love us were unconditional, and they provided it cheerfully! That is how each person, who is made, is made “In the image and likeness of God”. A child of God is always other-centered!That period between their birth and adulthood is the critical time in the lives of the young, when they are inspired to make that scary leap from being a person who hoards happiness and chooses to become a person who is a source of God’s blessings.

Today’s 1st Reading is a perfect example of this dynamic. During their Exodus, the ancient Israelites experienced one crisis after another, starting with their slavery in Egypt, through the agonizing trek through the Desert Wilderness to the Promised Land. They have been living day-to-day with hunger and thirst. Yet, God has always provided for them each of those days, weeks, and months. They allowed the hardships of this journey to numb them to the faithfulness of God and his daily efforts to watch over them. “Why have you brought us up from Egypt to die in this desert, where there is no food or water? We are disgusted with this wretched food.”  We can all understand that they are seriously stressed. I’m sure even God understands their suffering. Yet, they persist in their spiritual immaturity. Like most children, the moment one wonderful experience concludes, and the gift-givers don’t have something to replace it, they become high maintenance. The consequence? God allows them to experience what it is to be without His love. Enter the seraph serpents! It’s not that God steps away from them; it is the Israelites who step back from God.

Like all parents who have exhausted all of their benign efforts to love a child who is suffering with a bad case of self-entitlement, His only recourse is to give the Israelites a reality check of what it is like to be without His love. Like all immature children and adults, the Israelites receive a humbling lesson of what is truly good and who truly loves them. The same dynamic is in play in today’s Gospel, when Our Lord refers to His future Passion; namely, He loves us, even when we are blind to His Love.

My sisters and brothers, we are no different than the Israelites. It would be a good spiritual exercise for each of us to include within our personal prayer deliberate efforts to reflect on the times and ways in which God has been with us during our desert moments and how often he continues to love us. If we do, we will find ourselves cultivating a deep love for Him even before we reach the Promised Land.

Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** Sept 7th Parish @ $1866, Catholic Foundation @ $2778. Thank You.

**Coffee/Donuts**: Sept 14 following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall. All invited.

**Special Collection:** Black & Indian Missions, Sept 13-14.

 

 **Last Call for RCIA!**

St. Lawrence’ 2025-26 RCIA program began last week; however, it is not too late for anyone who has delayed making this decision. It is imperative that anyone wishing to be a part of this program contact Fr. Walter J. Benn [610]749-2684 by **noon Saturday 9/20/25**. We would love to include you in the September 23rd class which begins at 7 PM. Those making these decisions remain in our prayers.