

## January 11, 2026 – The Baptism of The Lord

### Saturday – Jan 10<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass

5:00PM Stephen & Mary Benn (Fr. Benn)

### Sunday – Jan 11<sup>th</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM Anna Mare & Harry Pinker (Cluichia Family)

### Monday – Jan 12<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – First Week in Ordinary Time

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan – Hospital – (Dolores Bonk)

### Tuesday – Jan 13<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of The Church

9:00AM Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

### Wed. – Jan 14<sup>th</sup> – Weekday –

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan – Hospital – (Altar Rosary Society)

### Thurs. – Jan 15<sup>th</sup> – Weekday –

9:00AM Readings & Communion Distribution Only

### Friday – Jan 16<sup>th</sup> – Weekday –

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan – Hospital – (Lay Carmelite Community)

### Saturday – Jan 17<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Anthony, Abbot

9:00AM Souls in Purgatory (Halfant 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 Sebastian, 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, Emma Jones, Gerry Primavera

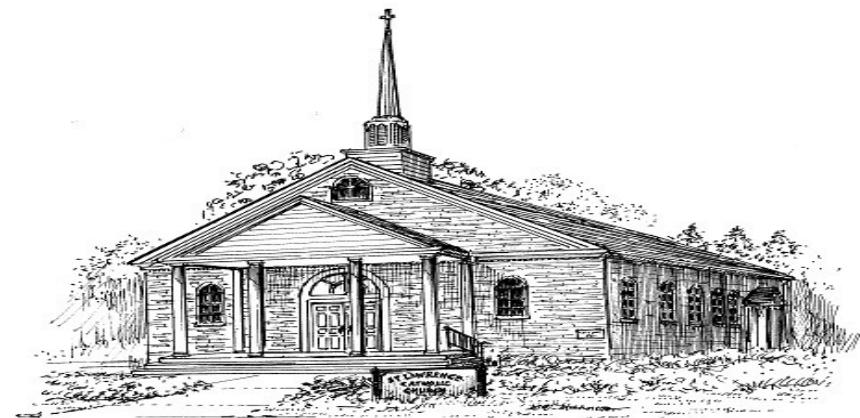
## Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684  
Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net)

[Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org](http://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 January 11, 2026

On this weekend, we bring our wonderful celebration of the Advent and Christmas Seasons to a close. For me, this becomes a great opportunity to express my gratitude to all of those parishioners who contributed to the beauty of our celebrations, and more importantly, to the holiness of those spiritual seasons. After Lent/Easter, Advent/Christmas is the most sacred season on the Church calendar. Because Christmas and Easter celebrate God's Devine love in its most powerful expression; it is most important that all us prepare to return to those powerful events by spending time in prayer and penance. The days of Advent and Lent are supposed to be devoted to simplifying our daily lives so that we can rediscover the significance of Christ's birth, Christ's suffering and death, Christ's resurrection. We are supposed to make a personal effort to do this, but also, the Church seeks to offer us liturgical ways to reflect on these events. So, what are some of the things that the people of St. Lawrence participated in during the preparation period of Advent's four weeks? First, I felt it in those who made an extra effort to attend daily Mass. I witnessed it in the increase of participants at weekend Masses. In the coming months, I encourage you to build on what you have started during Advent and Christmas. There was a slight increase in the enthusiasm of the those participating in our weekly Scripture Study of the Gospel of John. Although the numbers of people seeking out Our Lord in the

Sacrament of Reconciliation were about the same, the quality of those confessions were noticeable. The response to our *Emergency Food Drive* to help Food Pantries restock their cupboards while suffering from the Government shut-down was very impressive and greatly appreciated by the *Lord's Pantry* in Ottsville. On very short notice, two women of our parish stepped forward, promoting, organizing and delivering 800 to 1,000 lbs. of food. But it was also many of you who provided the food. Led by the women of the *Altar & Rosary Society*, and their sidekicks the M&Ms, a modest number of parishioners remained in Church, after the December 21<sup>st</sup> 9:30 AM Mass, to participate in the **Greening of the Church**. The decoration of the church was completed in 90 minutes. No doubt many of them had other obligations; yet, they took up this task with cheerfulness and enthusiasm; you and I have been enjoying an absolutely beautiful church ever since. We are also grateful to the students of our PREP program, who serenaded us with Christmas hymns following the conclusion of the 9:30 Mass on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Weekend of Advent. Thank you Boys & Girls.

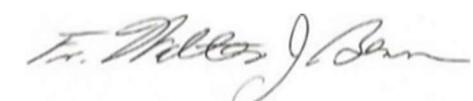
Liturgically, we were short of various ministers, because a few were traveling; others were not in good health. Speaking of those who were not in good health; three of them ended up in the ER either on Christmas Eve or Christmas Day. One had seriously pinched nerves in her neck & shoulder; another was immobilized with severe vertigo, and the third initially was being treated for

Pancreatitis, only to discover that she has been suffering mild heart attacks throughout Advent. The consequence, was that the other Eucharistic Ministers, Lectors, Greeters, Ushers and choir members cheerfully doubled their efforts. Speaking of the choir, I want to express our gratitude to all of them, especially over Christmas Eve and Christmas Day. Under the leadership of Roberta Ward, they did a wonderful job in setting the tone for our celebrations. On Christmas Eve, two daughters of our parishioners traveled down from New York City to offer their beautiful talents as a professional singer and as a professional violinist. We should be so grateful. Bob Steinberg, Tracy Meadows and Rich Perone took turns behind our video camera, so that all shut-ins could participate in the *Live Streaming* of any of our 3 Christmas Masses. Despite last minute surprises, our sacristan, Nick Danford, was cheerfully multi-tasking all over the place and succeeded in keeping everything and everyone informed, organized, supplied, and on time....including the Pastor. Then, there were groups who were working behind the scenes such as the *Knights of Columbus* who delivered meals to shut-ins at Thanksgiving and gifts to those same shut-ins before Christmas. There were the *M&M's* and men of the *Holy Name Society* who invested a lot of effort in preparing a very nice Social which was to follow the Riegelsville's *Ecumenical Advent Service* which St. Lawrence was to host. Regrettably, all of their work was for nought, when the Ecumenical Service needed to be canceled because of the 8" of snow we

received the night before; it was so cold on the roads that nothing would melt; the 20-30 MPH winds didn't help either. I also want to give a shout out to Terri Olimpo who is responsible for the cleaning of the rectory, Ceader Hall and Church. Despite the busy use of the church, she managed to kind everything clean, sparkling and facilities for us to be proud of. Well done Terri!

Finally, I want to express for us, the joy of having recently arrived Deacon-Intern Joshua Schulz. Joshua is a fulltime university professor. Along with his wife, the father of five children is required to participate in hours of class work each week at St. Charles Seminary, and then to get as involved in the life of our St. Lawrence Parish. This past week, he joined 16,000 Catholic college students at an annual gathering in Columbus Ohio, whose sole purpose is to learn more about their Catholic Faith and how to get involved in the life of their Church. Initially, he has been contributing to the life of our parish as a Lector, Eucharistic Minister, Cantor and Acolyte. As time allows, he will be attending Finance Counsel and Pastoral Council meetings, and visiting the Classes of our PREP program. Like each of those whom I have referenced above, his faith and joy are his greatest gift to us.

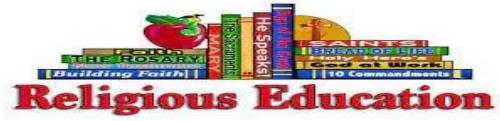
Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** January 4 Parish @ \$3324, Christmas @ \$1640, Christmas Flowers @ \$50, Solemnity of Mary @ \$348. Thank You.

**Special Collection:** Catholic Relief Services, January 10-11.

**Need Your Help If You Can:** we are in need of Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors. Advise Fr. Benn. Thank you!!



**Religious Education Financial Assistance:**  
forms available in vestibule for Fall 2025 & Spring 2026. Provided by the Ceader Trust Trustees. Time sensitive, act now. Deadline March 1 2026.

**Weekly Contribution Envelopes 2026:**  
are available for pick up in church. Please make the time to do so. Envelopes not picked up by February 1 will be discarded and removed from the 2027 envelope list. No changes can be made to the 2026 product which was completed in October 2025.

**Thank You:** expressions of sincere gratitude from [The Lord's Pantry](#) for our contributions throughout 2025 including a Parish donation of \$498 collected from our Poor Box donations.

### [\*\*A & R Society Thank you\*\*](#)

*Much appreciated thank you to the anonymous donor for your generous gift!*