

August 23, 2026 – Twenty-First Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – Aug 22nd – Vigil Mass –

5:00PM Janine Jonik (Senior Family)

Sunday – Aug 23rd - Mass is Streamed Live –

9:30AM Intentions of Rex & Mariann Helfant (A Friend)

Monday – Aug 24th – Weekday – St. Bartholomew, Apostle

9:00AM Intentions of Bernadette Maszczak – Birthday (Dolores Bonk)

Tuesday – Aug 25th – Weekday – St. Louis, St. Joseph Calasanz, Priest

9:00AM Intentions of Bernadette Maszczak (Mary Scolavino)

Wed. – Aug 26th - Weekday –

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

Thurs. – Aug 27th – Weekday – St. Monica

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – Aug 28th – Weekday – St. Augustine, Bishop

9:00AM Intentions of Bernie Boylan (Mary Scolavino)

Saturday – Aug 29th – Weekday – The Passion of St. John the Baptist

9:00AM Intentions of Nick Danford & Family (Mary Scolavino)

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, Emma Jones, **Bernie Boylan, Elizabeth Ohle**

Church of Saint Lawrence

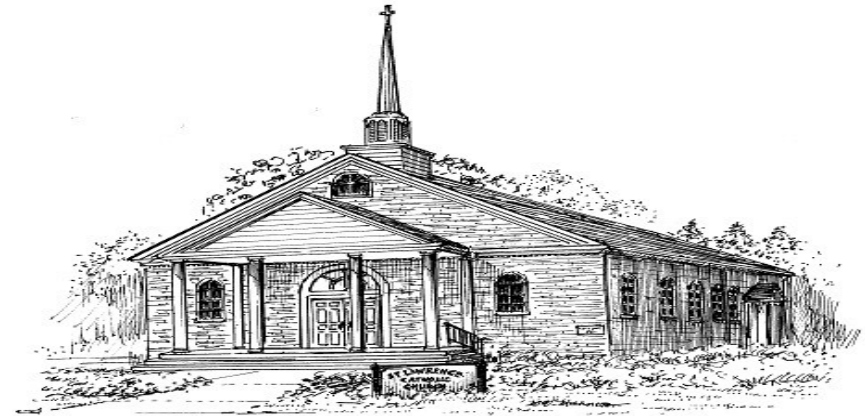
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

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 August 23, 2026

Today's Gospel Reading comes from the middle of St. Matthew's Gospel. Not surprisingly, the middle of Matthew's Gospel covers the middle period of Jesus' public life. By this time in Jesus' public life, two basic things have begun to crystallize: #1 For the religious authorities, any trust or belief that Jesus has a legitimate connection with God the Father is bogus, which makes Him a serious threat to the Jewish Church and therefore must be eliminated. #2 The Apostles have been exposed to a consistent stream of Our Lord's teaching, miracles, and message, which appeals to everyone to trust the Father's readiness to love every person, provided they own their sins and turn to Him. The Apostles might not understand the subtleties of Jesus' messiahship, but they should be able to recognize that Jesus is who He says He is, the Son of God. In today's Gospel, Jesus asks them the direct question, "*Who do you say I am?*" In a moment that must have caused Jesus immense joy and relief, Peter, speaking for the Twelve, responds, "*You are the Messiah, the Son of the Living God.*" Next Sunday's Gospel picks up where today's Gospel Reading concludes, and it isn't pretty. Because in it, Jesus, feeling that the Twelve are now ready to transition from baby food to adult food, begins to inform them that He is a ***Suffering*** Messiah, which scares the you know what out of the Apostles.

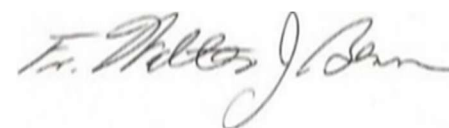
My point is to emphasize two things: #1 As we understand it, as Catholics, Discipleship isn't for the weak of heart; Discipleship involves adult Faith, which involves large amounts of humility and courage. #2 We should not be surprised that,

in our own journey as Disciples, we look a lot like the early Apostles; we know what Our Lord is about, what His Church teaches, and we agree with it, but we have a serious difficulty in living it. My point here is that we shouldn't make excuses for this, nor should we despair. Our Lord understands our spiritual frailty; but He also knows that there is no excuse why we can't get past that frailty, and that there is no excuse for failing to grow into a strong Disciple, by making the effort to find the strength we need to meet Our Lord's expectations in the same way the Apostles would find that strength; namely, by being a person of daily prayer, a person who reflects on the Scriptures, even if it is only on the Scriptures one hears commented on each sabbath; by placing ourselves in the presence of Our Lord in the celebration of the Eucharist and the Sacrament of Reconciliation; and by joining with our brothers & sisters as a **parish community**, especially when we celebrate the Eucharist together. We also encounter Our Lord when we share our time being *Community*, for the *Community*. For example, the Lay Carmelites, when we participate in food drives, share in the ***Greening of the Church*** before Christmas; join in the service project of groups such as the Altar & Rosary Society, the Mary & Martha's, the Holy Name Society, the Knights of Columbus, the Parish Scripture Study groups, making oneself available for service on the Pastoral Council or Finance Council, or joining our newest group, the prayer group *Prayer and Life*. It happens when we contribute to the liturgies of the parish, when parishioners commit themselves as Lectors, Eucharistic Ministers, *Greeters/Usher*, members of the Choir, as Videographers who donate their time and talent to make sure the home-bound can join us through the Live Streaming of our 9:30

AM Sunday Mass, and when they commit to be catechists in the PREP program. Being a member of these groups involves sacrificing one's time and talents for people they love; in doing so, they also discover they are encountering Our Lord and becoming closer to Our Lord.

So, my brothers & sisters, did you ever think that all of the above is also wrapped up in answering Jesus' question to each of you: "Who do you say that I am?"

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Aug 16th Parish @ \$3620, Assumption @ \$123, Air Conditioning @ \$51, Donation @ \$350. Thank You!!

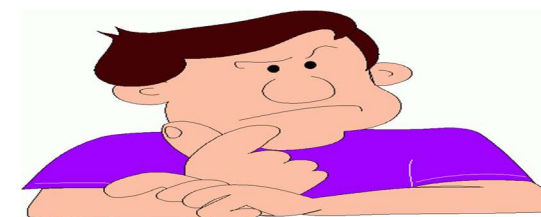
Knights of Columbus: meeting Aug 24 @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall



Bible Study: begins Sept. 16, held on Tuesdays @ 10AM-12 Noon @ Ceader Hall. Registration deadline was Aug 9. Fee \$40. Forms + details in vestibule + Web Site.



Women's Catholic Conference: October 24. Altar Rosary Society will again be organizing a group to the National Shrine of Our Lady of Czestochowa, Doylestown. Flyers in vestibule. **Registration deadline was August 17.** Questions. Contact Mariann Helfant @ 908-892-8663 or principal45@gmail.com



- 1) How many tickles does it take to make an octopus laugh?
- 2) What would bears be without bees?
- 3) What do clouds wear under their shorts?
- 4) How do you organize a space party?
- 5) What do cows read the most?

1-Ten-tickles, 2- Ears, 3-Thunder pants, 4-You planet, 5- Cattle-logs