

May 24, 2026 – Pentecost Sunday

Saturday – May 23rd – Vigil Mass

5:00PM Intentions of First Responders

Sunday – May 24th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM All Active Members of Our Armed Services & Veterans

Monday – May 25th – Weekday – The Blessed Virgin Mary, Mother of The Church

9:00AM All Those Who Scarified Their Lives for Our Country

Tuesday – May 26th – Weekday – St. Philip Neri, Priest

9:00AM Irene Pavlica (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Wed. – May 27th – Weekday – St. Augustine of Canterbury, Bishop

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

Thurs. – May 28th – Weekday

9:00AM Reading & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – May 29th – Weekday – St. Paul VI, Pope

9:00AM Margaret Grove (Tom Labant)

Saturday – May 30th – Weekday

9:00AM Intention of Missionary Rogationist Fathers

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**

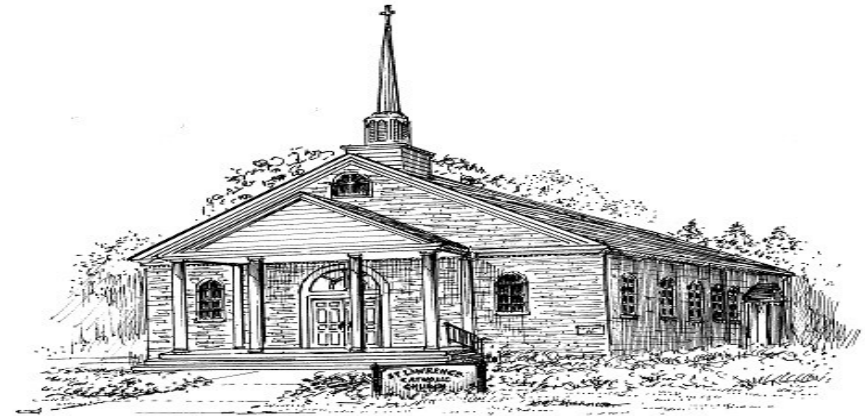
Church of Saint Lawrence

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 May 24, 2026

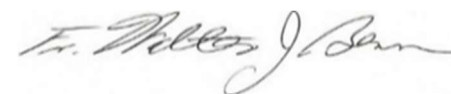
Understandably, the story of Pentecost catches a lot of people's attention, regardless of whether one is a believer, indifferent to God or an atheist. Everything within the Pentecost story speaks of **P-O-W-E-R**. There's the powerful wind that blows through the *Upper Room*. Then there are the "tongues as of fire" that appear over the Apostles' heads. Then, the Apostles were filled with the Holy Spirit; they "began to speak different languages." Most impressive of all, is that the Father was returning to the very people who betrayed his Son, yet still offered them His love. Nevertheless, there is one aspect of this story that most people overlook and which is just as important; namely, that the Apostles had not given up...they may have run, but they did not run away. They stayed together and waited for Our Lord's next move. They were a wounded community; definitely a flawed community, but the only way God's *Holy Spirit* would come to them was as a **C-O-M-M-U-N-I-T-Y**, as a believing body. How effective do you think God's Holy Spirit would have been if He had to track each of them down individually? It is an essential part of Catholic theology and spirituality that one of the essential ways in which we encounter Our Lord is within *Community*.

Faith is built together. Faith is strengthened together. Imperfect faith can only be healed together. Faith does not come into existence or thrive in a vacuum. Certainly, there is an important place for our personal relationship with God, but what anchors that personal relationship is how we encounter Our Lord within a faith community. We speak of the "Community of believers", "Community of Saints", "the College of Cardinals/Bishops". When issues of our beliefs and teachings arise, our Bishops meet as the successors of those original Apostles who met in the Upper Room on Pentecost Sunday, i.e., as a Community. The Apostles in the pre-Pentecost weeks, stayed together as long as necessary until the Holy Spirit helped them to get it right. We should do no less! It is our belief that God speaks and empowers us best when we pray and act together. This is how we understand God's command to Moses and the Israelites through His commandment to "Keep holy the Sabbath". He doesn't need to hear from us; it is we who need to stay close to Him! It is wrong for us to be unavailable to Our Lord's Holy Spirit by not coming together, praying together, listening to Him together. There are circumstances which prevent some sisters and brothers from being able to join the community: poor health, inability to drive or be driven and

distance. Certainly, our experiences to the dangers of the Covid-driven Pandemic were serious reasons. Has not our experience of the limitations caused by the Pandemic taught us how poor and malnourished we are when we are unable to gather with each other in faith through our celebration of the Eucharist? Our celebration of the Eucharist is not some kind of sentimental trip down *Memory Lane*; rather it is our common effort to return to Calvary, to the Tomb, to the Upper Room, waiting, watching, hoping, praying for the Lord's presence. Each time we do, we are affirmed by each other's faith and by the Lord's Holy Spirit.

So, my brothers and sisters, let us not look past how critical our life as a parish community is, especially as it is anchored by its celebration of the Eucharist. Despite our short-comings, we contribute to the health of our spiritual family by how much we live the Eucharist. When we do, we will enrich the faith of those in our Parish and in the larger Church; and we, in turn, will be enriched by their faith. That is the Divine **power** which our world hungers for, but all too often is afraid to believe in.

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: May 17th Parish @ \$2618, Ascension @ \$346, Catholic Home Missions @ \$125. Thank You!!



Altar & Rosary Trip

June 19, 2026, visiting the Shrine of Saint Joseph, Stirling, NJ; Lunch at Dora's, Clinton, NJ. Details to follow



Annual Parish Dinner: Tuesday, June 23 @ LaBella Via, 41 Third St., Phillipsburg, NJ. Cost \$25pp payable to: "The Holy Name Society", cash bar, soft drinks provided. RSVP by June 14. Forms in vestibule of Church.