

**August 3, 2025 – Eighteenth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – Aug 2<sup>nd</sup> – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Fr. Robert Breen, Pastor-Deceased (Altar Rosary Society)

**Sunday – Aug 3<sup>rd</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Intentions of Betty Steinberg (Mary Scolavino)

**Monday – Aug 4<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. John Vianney, Priest**

9AM: **NO Mass** – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Tuesday – Aug 5<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – Dedication of the Basilica of St. Mary Major**

9AM: **NO Mass** – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Wednesday – Aug 6<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – Transfiguration of the Lord**

9:00AM: **NO Mass – NO Exposition of Sacrament** – Readings Communion Distribution Only

**Thursday – Aug 7<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Sixtus II, Pope & Companions, Martyrs**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Aug 8<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Dominic, Priest**

9:00AM: **NO Mass** – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Saturday – Aug 9<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – St. Teresa Benedicta of the Cross, Virgin, Martyr**

9:00AM **Yes Mass** – Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**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

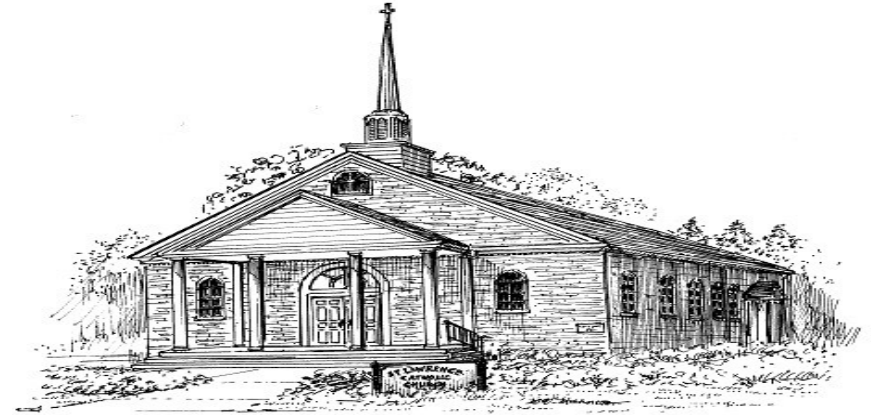
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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[Website: saint-Lawrence-church.org](http://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 Thurs. @ 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 3, 2025

The culture of the ancient Near East adhered to the belief that one's ownership and the amount of wealth accumulated defined one's worth as a human being. While there is nothing wrong with being fortunate enough to have the security of wealth and enjoy numerous creature comforts throughout one's life, in the light of eternity with God, they hold very little value; those things do **not** determine one's importance, status, or value. "Then he said to the crowd:

***"Take care to guard against all greed, for though one may be rich, one's life does not consist of possessions."***


Then, Our Lord follows this comment with the *Parable of the Rich Man* who was fortunate to have a bountiful harvest, so bountiful that his barns were unable to store it all. In a good business decision, he decides to tear them down and build larger barns on their footprint. To his audience, the people listening to Our Lord must have thought He was being ridiculous to mock the rich man. However, Our Lord is not criticizing the rich man for a good business decision; rather, he is criticizing him because of his misplaced values; namely, that his happiness will only be defined by "things", "stuff", "wealth". The rich man does not understand nor lives his life in terms of eternity; i.e. eternity with God the Father. The rich man is an incredibly immature person; he lives for the present and only for himself. Tragic!

Brothers & Sisters, do we not live in such a world? Is this not the message that our culture, along with its sophisticated promotions, bombards us with? It is the

message that if you don't own this or that, if this product, vehicle, beverage, vacation spot, investment firm, etc., isn't a part of your life, you will regret it.

It is so important that we not misunderstand Our Lord. He doesn't mean to come across as strident or anti-comfort or security. Still, He does mean to challenge His people and us with the truth that true happiness can only be found in God. The Father impresses upon us that we will share in His joy when we live in moderation, share our wealth and take care of those who have the misfortune to be less fortunate than us; namely, the poor, those who are less educated than us, have less power and influence than us, all because they are less affluent than us. It is also crucial that we not misunderstand these comments as referring solely to material wealth. We must consider those who are emotionally impoverished. Those who perhaps were not blessed to live in a healthy family setting, but rather in a dysfunctional environment, one in which they wake up with it and go to sleep with it. They could be friends, schoolmates, fellow workers who were never taught to respect and see the worth of people who were different from them. They could be people in our lives who have never enjoyed good health; individuals who perhaps suffer from handicaps that are so subtle that many others, including teachers, never recognize them. Maybe they never developed an interest in sports because they never had anyone teach them how to catch a baseball, dribble a basketball, skate on the ice or swim. Perhaps their inability to socialize or interact was because no one had ever shown them how to interact with others. In today's Gospel, Our Lord is reversing the code of His culture, and impressing upon us that true wealth is not

what you and I can possess or hoard. Instead, true wealth can only be found in the lives and hearts of those around us. These are the areas in which Our Lord is encouraging each of us to enrich ourselves by making our time, our talents and our opinions available to those who are poor in these areas. On our part, it requires that we cultivate the willingness to *presume* that each person in our lives is worthy of our respect and trust, even when they seem to slow us down or are unable to reciprocate our trust and generosity. The burden shouldn't be on them to prove their worthiness of our respect and belief in their worth; the burden is on us to labor at offering it. When we risk doing this, we may be the very first person in their lives who ever made to effort to *enrich* them with those values. I don't know about you, but that is something I need to pray for each day and for each person who enters my life. Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** July 27<sup>th</sup> Parish @ \$3236, Candles @ \$159, Catholic Foundation @ \$3814. Thank You.

**Special Collection:** next week, Aug 9-10, Catholic University.

**Coffee & Donuts:** Aug 10<sup>th</sup> following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall.

### **"What's in a Family?"**

The answer to that is "Plenty"! No family is perfect; however, it is within that imperfect family that we usually are able to work out our imperfections and grow. If this is true about biological families, it is also true of spiritual families. Spiritual Families such as a parish are places where its members grow;

where they can make mistakes and yet still find they are loved. Family is where we learn; mature and where wounds can be healed. Like the children in all families, a parish family is a place where we can grieve at the loss of a loved-one; yet, gather together to celebrate their eternal life. It is within the life of the parish family that parents bring their children into the larger family at Baptism. The parish family is where parents look for help to prepare their children to join us at God's table in the Eucharist. The parish family is the group within which a young couple declares their permanent love for each other and includes the parish family in that love. Just as it is at home where the mother & father teach their children morals & values; so it is in church, the parish home, where we gather to be taught from God's Word. If you are person who would like to become a member of our parish family, we encourage you to consider entering its RCIA program, which begins **September 9, 2025 at 7 PM** and concludes **March 31, 2026**. For details about the RCIA program, including the **2025-26 schedule** of classes, grab one of the **orange** sheets in the vestibule of the church, which explains the history of RCIA, explains the basics about the program and includes the 2025-25 schedule of classes. You can also refer to our parish website [saint-lawrence-church.org](http://saint-lawrence-church.org), contact Fr. Benn through the Parish Office at **[610] 749-2684** or internet at [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net), A basic description of the RCIA program can be found in yellow hand-outs in the vestibule of the church.