

January 5, 2025 – Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday – Jan. 4th – Vigil Mass

5PM: Andrew Schlotter (Gambino Family)

Sunday – Jan. 5th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30AM: Mary Emily Pagano (Fr. Benn)

Monday – Jan. 6th – Weekday – St. Andre Bessette, Religious

9AM: Rudy & Josphine Benko (Jones Family)

Tuesday – Jan. 7th – Weekday – St. Raymond of Penafort, Priest

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Wednesday – Jan. 8th 2025 – Christmas Weekday

9:00AM: Blessings for All Throughout the New Year

Thursday – Jan. 9th – Weekday – Christmas Weekday

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – Jan. 10th – Weekday – Christmas Weekday

9AM: Art Bedrum (Helfant Family)

Saturday – Jan. 11th – Christmas Weekday

9AM: Donna Hampton (Jones 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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

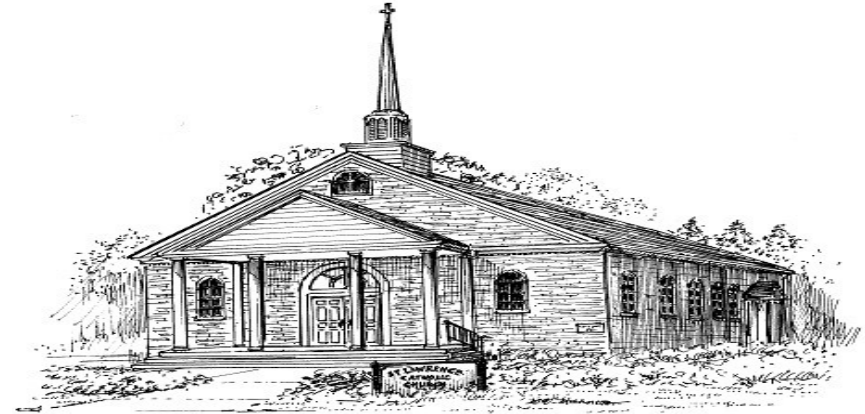
Church of Saint Lawrence

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Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684
Email: 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 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! January 5, 2025

Once more, we are treated to another beautiful and powerful Christmas Gospel, this time from St. Matthew, as he recounts the story of the Magi's search for Messiah and their visit to the Holy Family. A lot is going on in this story, which we should reflect on. #1 The Magi are internationally respected men, including by the Jews. Normally, people, including people of power, come to them, not them to others. #2 For all of their intelligence and influence, they are humble men who believe in God and that everyone, including themselves, should respect and heed God's wisdom and direction. This explains their exhausting search for the Child Jesus in a land where their religious beliefs are not taken seriously or appreciated. #3 They travel a long, long distance during their search, at their expense and through a wilderness that is notoriously dangerous because of bandits, who would not hesitate to kill them for whatever valuables they were carrying on their camels. #4 They bring extremely valuable gifts, which are given only to those of great honor and power who are perceived worthy of them.

Just as in St. Luke's version of the Holy Family's visit by the Shepherds, where the reader focuses on the Shepherds and not so much on the

Messiah or Holy Family, St. Matthew draws our attention to the Magi. Why? Because the shepherds and the Magi were stereotyped. The prejudices of St. Luke's and St. Matthew's culture projected the Magi as people unfamiliar with God, incapable of being in a relationship with God, and therefore rejected by God. For all of their courageous efforts to follow the teachings of Jesus, the communities of St. Luke, and especially St. Matthew, sometimes struggled with being flexible when it came to those "who were different." They would forget that the very reason the Master got into so much trouble with the religious authorities was that He insisted that everyone is a child of the Father. Because they were, they deserved every chance to be received into the family of believers. This didn't mean Christians had to water down their understanding of Jesus and His teachings. Still, it did mean that every one of them had a responsibility to patiently and humbly respect where "non-believers" were during their own journey to God, especially if it was obvious that their search was genuine. In some ways, I am embarrassed by the Shepherds and the Magi because they are innocent; they trust that everyone appreciates their efforts to discover Him and that they will be patient while they are in the midst of

their search, many times of which would go off in the wrong direction.

My brothers and sisters, we live in times when people of any religious faith are frequently stereotyped. Because of that, they suffer from the prejudices of those who refuse to acknowledge the fundamental goodness of their religious beliefs. It's hurtful. Yet, the example of Our Lord is to be patient and forgiving of such people and their behavior. How many of us can say that none of our children, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, siblings, or spouses aren't the Shepherds and Magi of our family? Every day, let us ask Our Lord for the humility and patience to maintain our relationship with those who are skeptical about what Our Lord can bring to their table. As difficult as it sometimes is, let us ask Our Lord always to welcome them to our stable so that, like the Holy Family in Bethlehem, they may experience the presence of the infant Messiah in our patience, our effort not to judge or reject, but always to make sure they know they are welcome in our heart regardless of how perfect or imperfect they may be.

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Christmas YTD \$13,085, Dec 22 Parish @ \$5043. Dec 29 Parish @ \$2347, Candles @ \$34, Poor Box @ \$193 Thank You and Happy New Year.



Special Collection: Catholic Relief Services, Jan 11-12.



Altar & Rosary Annual Christmas Dinner: will be held on January 10, 6:00 PM @ The Springtown Inn. All women of the Parish are invited. Reservation *deadline is Sunday January 5, 2025*. Forms available in vestibule. Cost \$35.00pp. Any questions please contact Mary Senior 267-882-5586

Mass Intention Requests 2025. The Parish office will be accepting requests beginning Dec 26 and forward. You may request any time throughout the year. If you have many names/dates please submit in writing; either hard copy or better yet via email. Dates are subject to change based on availability. Note "Deceased or "Intentions of". Thank you.