

Pastor's Corner # 2

November 28th / *Thanksgiving Day!*

This week we celebrate not only the *Feast of Christ the King*, but later in the week, we will also celebrate *Thanksgiving Day*. It is a wonderful day, and I hope that all of you have an enjoyable and safe celebration with your family and friends. As you go about your celebration, I encourage you to do something that is not always easy in the midst of a celebration and that is to make the time to quiet yourselves and make an effort to invite Our Lord into that quiet time. Reflect on all of the blessings you enjoy, all of the blessings of which He has showered on those you love, including our Country. Give Our Lord an opportunity to quietly speak to you about those blessings. Ask Him to help you to be willing to be a source of His blessings to those in your life, especially those who may be lonely, in need of forgiveness or a sense of worth that only you can offer them. The central dynamic about *Thanksgiving Day* is that as a Nation and as individuals, we recognize that we would be nothing without His love, His forgiveness and His generosity. Ask Our Lord to help you embody that gratitude. Fr. Walter Benn

Speaking of Thanksgiving

Over the recent weeks, our parish enjoy two really nice celebrations: *Octoberfest* and our *Veterans Day* celebration, which included a knock-out breakfast. Both meals involved a lot of preparation and effort. I want to Thank all of the Ladies of the Mary & Martha's [a.k.a. M&Ms] for the wonderful *Octoberfest* they spoiled us with, and I want to Thank all of the men of the Holy Name Society who laid out a great breakfast for us on the Sunday of Veteran's Day Weekend. It was Great!

Advent Ecumenical Service!

St. Lawrence Parish will be hosting Riegelsville's annual *Advent Ecumenical Service* on Sunday afternoon, December 15th at 3 PM. Pastor Bradley Gow of St. Peter's Evangelical Lutheran Church will be preaching. By design, these ecumenical services are kept simple and focused on the season, in this case Advent. They also conclude with a Social which always includes great food. As busy as you might be, come and join your sisters and brothers in Christ as we celebrate what unites us; namely, the inexhaustible love of our Messiah, Jesus Christ.

Greening of the Church!

The *Greening of the Church* is that weekend when parishioners gather to decorate our church for Christmas. This year's date for the Greening of the Church is Sunday, December 22nd starting immediately after the 9:30 AM Mass. The ladies of the Altar & Rosary Society direct the decorating. However, we need me to literally do the heavy lifting. This involves transferring the artificial trees over to church from the storage shed and setting them up, moving the poinsettias from the sacristy to the sanctuary, attaching the large Christmas wreath from the choir loft and a few other things. It is a lot of work, but with many hands it is usually accomplished in little more than an hour. Even if you can only spare 20 minutes, please join us for this parish tradition. Soup and sandwiches will be available in Ceadar Hall.

Are you registered in St. Lawrence Parish?

With joy, we see more and more new faces bringing the gift of their Faith to our celebration of the Eucharist on the weekends. This is wonderful and we hope you feel as welcomed to St. Lawrence, as we are nourished by your faith. There are so many exhausting things to do when one makes a move. If you haven't had the chance to register in the parish, we encourage you to do so. [We also encourage those who aren't sure they are registered or if their registration expired.] Registering in a parish gives you an opportunity to identify yourself with your spiritual family, and be officially welcomed into your new Parish Family. It also gives us an opportunity to meet you and for you "to pick our brains". Contact the Parish Office and make arrangements with Fr, Benn to meet you. If you would like, he would be happy to visit you in your home and bless it. If your personal schedule is tight, you can also register by speaking to him immediately after Mass or stopping him in Ceader Hall during one of our Socials, such as our monthly *Coffee & Donuts* following Mass on the 2nd Sunday of each month. Welcome to St. Lawrence Parish!