**August 31, 2025 – Twenty - Second Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – Aug 30th** – **Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Those Struggling to Find Employment (Fr. Benn)

**Sunday – Aug 31st – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Intentions of Jeanette Talese (Dolores Bonk)

**Monday – Sept 1st – Weekday –**

9AM: Intentions of Dolores Bonk (Parish Community)

**Tuesday – Sept 2nd –Weekday –**

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

**Wednesday – Sept 3rd – Weekday – St. Gregory the Great, Pope**

9:00AM: Blessings & Encouragement for Students Returning to School

**Thursday – Sept 4th – Weekday –**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Sept 5th – Weekday –**

9:00AM: Nathan Burke – USN Causality - Memory of 35th Birthday (Ted/Janet Achuff)

**Saturday – Sept 6th – Weekday –**

9:00AM Souls in Purgatory (Helfant 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, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

345 Elmwood Lane Rectory: 610-749-2684

Riegelsville, PA 18077 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 31, 2025

It’s Labor Day Weekend, and like every one of our National Holidays, it celebrates a gift from God that we should be grateful for. This gift did not originate with us; instead, we are recipients of something that originated and was cherished by Americans from generations past. It is only when we take the time to prayerfully look at those gifts, along with their joys, successes, freedoms, comforts, opportunities, and security, that we will realize how precious they are and that they were handed down to us for our benefit, but also for our responsibility. We are Stewards of them and have the responsibility of protecting them and preparing the next generation of Americans to receive them. Consider the following: The 4th of July? We have the courageous Founding Fathers, filled with a sense of the nobility of every person whom God creates, who were inspired to defend every American’s inalienable rights. They inspired the people, who rose up and defeated the mightiest country on the planet with its Citizen Army. Thanksgiving Day? A nation that just survived a horrendous 5-year Civil War, which threatened to destroy the “Great Experiment”. This was a war in which modern weapons were being introduced on the battlefield. The combined casualties of both sides amounted to the most significant loss of life, among American troops, which to this day, has never been approached. The Great President Lincoln, who put us on his shoulders through it all, wisely insisted that in the light of such terrible suffering and danger, we, as a Nation, must humbly dedicate a day to thank God for this blessing and all of the people who embodied that blessing. Memorial Day? Its origins stem from the same spirit of gratitude that emerged from America’s people following the First World War. Labor Day?  More than anything, this holiday evolved out of the terrible experience of unemployment, dangerous working conditions, immoral salaries to workers, political corruption, and overall greed. Sometimes the efforts and risks of courageous civil and political leaders were just as risky and dangerous as those for those working in the factories, fields, mines, railroads, etc. It took over a century before these abuses were challenged and defeated, so that today, most people’s right to work and to work in a safe environment with fair pay are protected by Law.

                  All of this was not the product of God coming down into our world and personally confronting these significant obstacles. Instead, it was God working through the great spiritual Faith of countless men and women from varied religious traditions, who courageously spoke up and spoke out, many times alone, to confront the evils of their day.

                  So, my brothers & sisters, as we enjoy this Labor Day weekend, let us always remember the evils that our Countrymen rose up to oppose, to defeat, and to protect us. We should also understand that, as Catholics, we, like our national ancestors, have a moral obligation to oppose any injustice that emerges from among our Countrymen and threatens the well-being of anyone.

Your brother in Christ,

**Collections:** Aug 17 Parish @ $1953, Assumption @ $197, Air Conditioning @ $60, Catholic University @ $25, Aug 24th Parish @ $1632, Air Conditioning @ $103, Thank You.

  **“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**, contact Fr. Benn through the Parish Office at **[610] 749-2684** or internet at saintlawrence@verizon.net, A basic description of the RCIA program can be found in yellow hand-outs in the vestibule of the church.