

**April 14, 2024 – Third Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday – April 13th – Vigil Mass**

5PM: Nathan Burk – 3<sup>rd</sup> Anniversary – Deceased Veteran

**Sunday – April 14th – Mass is Streamed Live- Easter Sunday**

9:30: MaryJane Mardis (Helfant Family)

**Monday – April 15th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: Anne Pavlich (Ted/Janet Achuff)

**Tuesday – April 16th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Wednesday – April 17th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM  
Intentions of Barbara Itterly (Lay Carmelite Community)

**Thursday – April 18th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: No Mass – Reading & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – April 19th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: Health & Guidance for Expecting Mothers

**Saturday – April 14th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: World Peace

**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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

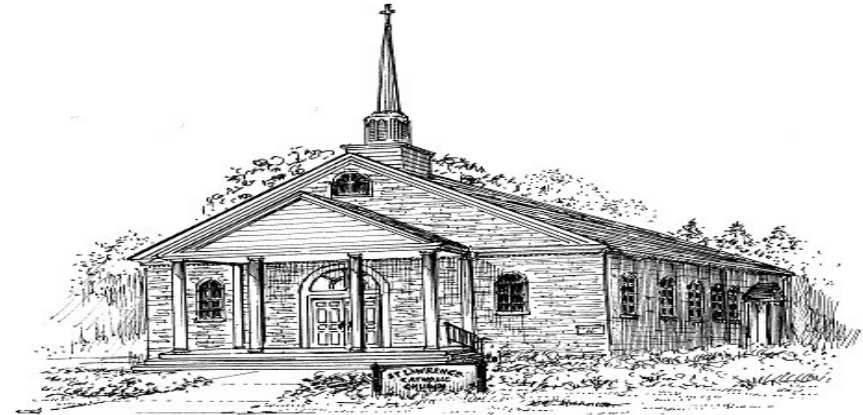
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

Rectory: 610-749-2684  
Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net)

[Website: saint-lawrence-church.org](http://www.saint-lawrence-church.org)



**Mass Schedule:** Saturday Evenings @ 5PM; Sunday Morning @ 9:30AM; Holy Days @ 9AM & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday No Mass, Communion Distribution Only @ 9AM

**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! April 14, 2024

Today's 1st Reading from the Acts of the Apostles: "The God of Abraham, the God of Isaac, and the God of Jacob, the God of our fathers, has glorified his Servant Jesus, whom you handed over and denied in Pilot's presence when he decided to release him. You denied the Holy and Righteous One and asked that a murderer be released to you. The author of life you put to death, but God raised him from the dead; of this we are witnesses." These were the words of St. Peter, who had denied Our Lord three times! The man who hid in the Upper Room, the site of the Last Supper, while Our Lord was being crucified and confidently assured, in everyone's hearing, that he would die for the Lord. How crushed Peter must have been by the end of that weekend. Despite his essential goodness, his spiritual weakness had been exposed by the Crucifixion of Our Lord. One would think that no one could have recovered from such a downfall and sin. Yet, as Our Lord would show many times during the months and weeks before his Passion, there is nothing the Father cannot reverse. We merely need to own it, bring it to the Father, and ask Him to do what we never could, and that is heal us. Please make the time to sit down quietly and read the first three chapters of the Acts of the Apostles. It is not only an easy read; you will find it inspiring. I suspect

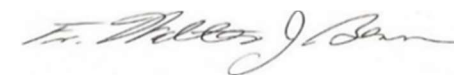
you will not stop there but will continue reading this book; it's that good and that nourishing. You will understand why the early Christians referred to Jesus' message as "The Good News." There are many things that one can take away from the stories in the Acts of the Apostles. I want to point out one; it centers on the person of our Saint Peter. The transformation in his life is stunning; some might consider it unbelievable. Once he has had the opportunity to be reconciled with the Resurrected Lord in the Upper Room on Easter Sunday morning and later surrendered to the Master's Holy Spirit on Pentecost, he moves from a cowardly, humiliated, and indecisive person to someone who decisively goes among the very people he feared; identifying with the very person he could not bring himself to stand besides, weeks before; articulating boldly the message he previously was afraid to utter in public. He does not do this out of guilt or obligation; he does it out of Love for his people, the Jewish people, the people that God had promised would receive his Love first. Indeed, he must have understood the risks, but for reconciled Peter, it no longer matters. All he knew was that if the Master could love him completely after the way he betrayed Jesus, who was he to withhold that very same Love for them, regardless of whether they appreciated his offer of the Good News or wholly misunderstood it? It no longer mattered; the only thing that

mattered was God's complete Love for His children.

Notice three things that happen: #1 The people in this significant gathering hunger for clarification; they are not at peace with what has happened relating to Jesus on Good Friday; the news of Jesus' Resurrection has created hope; the miracles and bold preaching of the Apostles has impressed them; they are open to conversion! #2 When Peter speaks to the people, he speaks bluntly to them; he confronts them with their sin; he offers his sin as an inspiration to them. #3 Peter's message: "Repent, therefore, and be converted, that your sins might be wiped away!"

My sisters and brothers, during this Easter Season, I encourage you to return to these beautiful stories and pray over them. Talk to Our Lord about how you see yourselves in Saint Peter, the other Apostles, and their audience. Identify those aspects of your life that reflect pre-Calvary Peter. Ask Him to help you with those loved ones and situations which need you to speak boldly to them where they need to turn back to Our Lord to not be afraid of owning their sins, by allowing them to see both your pre-Calvary Peter, as well as your post-Resurrection Peter. Pray for me to do this, as I will pray for you to do likewise.

Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** April 7 Parish @ \$2363 Easter Residual @ \$2030, Holy Land @ \$40, Thank You.

**Coffee & Donuts:** April 14 @ Ceader Hall following the 9:30AM Mass

**Night at the Races:** Saturday, April 27. Doors open @6PM. Races start @ 7PM



being held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Doors open @ 6PM with races starting @ 7PM. This is a family friendly event open to everyone. Consider inviting friends & neighbors. Donation of door prizes & backed goods are greatly appreciated. Horses available for purchase @ \$10 each with a 1 in 10 chance of winning \$50. Thank you for supporting this annual Holy Name Society fund raiser providing a helpful hand to those in need throughout our Parish Community.