

**April 28, 2024 – Fifth Sunday of Easter**

**Saturday – April 27th – Vigil Mass**

5PM: Intentions of Keith Russman (Steve Ombalski)

**Sunday – April 28th – Mass is Streamed Live- Easter Sunday**

9:30: First Holy Communion Candidates

**Monday – April 29th – St. Catherine of Siena, Virgin & Doctor of the Church**

9AM: Intentions of Rex Helfant (Lay Carmelite Community)

**Tuesday – April 30th – Easter Weekday – St. Pius V, Pope**

9AM: **NO Mass Today**

**Wednesday – May 1st – Easter Weekday – St. Joseph the Worker**

9AM: **NO** Exposition of Blessed Sacrament **TODAY** – 9:30AM – 11AM

9AM: **NO Mass Today**

**Thursday – May 2nd – Easter Weekday – St. Athanasius, Bishop**

9AM: **No Mass Today – No Service Today**

**Friday – May 3rd – Easter Weekday – St. Philip & James, Apostles**

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

**Saturday – May 4th – Easter Weekday –**

9AM: 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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

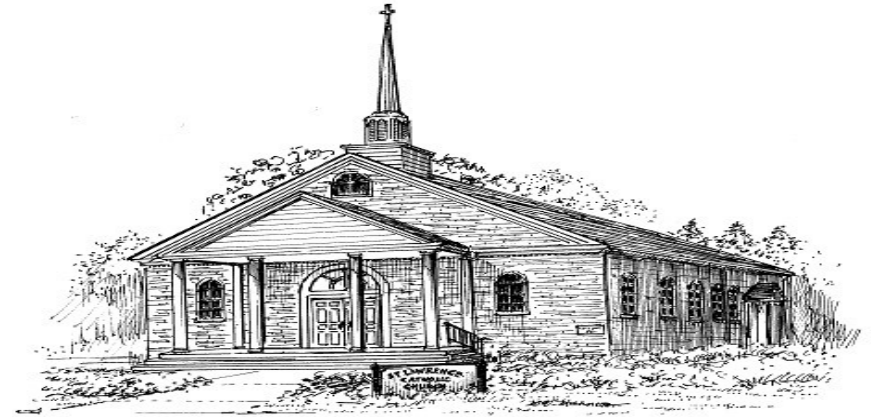
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

345 Elmwood Lane  
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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**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 28, 2024

As I write this *Pastor's Corner*, it is the day after twelve of our Children received their First Holy Communion. For me, as well as for all who participated in that celebration, it was a joy-filled celebration for the adults and the Communicants. It was not just because the weather was nice or the children looked so lovely. Instead, it was because those of us who created our parish family and those family members who gathered from all over to share in this moment brought the gift of their Faith to that sacred hour. In ancient times, when praying for its new members, the Church would invoke what they called the *Communion of Saints* to be a part of that moment, asking the saints in heaven to join them for the good of the new members. This would often take place in the form of the *Litany of the Saints*, as the names of numerous Saints were chanted, and the community would chant back, "Pray for Us." We did this during the Easter Vigil when Sunny "Josephine" Litschauer was brought into the sanctuary for her Baptism and Confirmation. The power of that united Faith linked with heaven could be felt. So, it was this past Sunday with, for, and because of those 12

children. No matter our age, where we were from, or our personal history, our faith, and now our celebration of the Eucharist bonded us to those children and them to us.

Not surprisingly, the same spiritual dynamic is alive when we reflect on today's First Reading, in the *Acts of the Apostles*. It touches on the very early days of the Baby Church when the initial wave of persecution against the Christians had begun. Christians were being arrested, jailed, and soon would be executed. We hear how the Greek Hellenists "tried to kill "the former persecutor, Saul, whom we would come to know as the future St. Paul. Yet, what does the author of the *Acts of the Apostles* comment? "*The church throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria was at peace. It was being built up and walked in the fear of the Lord, and with the consolation of the Holy Spirit, it grew in numbers.*" People whom the Christians loved and strove to be in good relationships with now viewed them as dangerous, unpatriotic, and not worthy of their trust or respect. Yet, despite that, the Christians were at peace among themselves. Why? They found peace by grounding their lives in the Master's call to be forgiving, unselfish, respectful, generous with their personal gifts, and

trusting and trustworthy. To live such a life involved risk, isolation, possibly suffering, and rejection by those whose love they cherish. Yet, these ordinary people embraced Our Lord's call to risk those experiences to change the world.... they did it without regret and because they found Our Lord in the consolation and support of the Faith Community. They experienced this most profoundly when they gathered with their family of 0 Am faith to celebrate the Eucharist. To a certain extent, Christians still have the people of the world scratching their heads, particularly the Catholics.

This is the same journey that the parents and families of these twelve children have embarked upon. They have introduced their children to their spiritual family of the Church, especially as they take their place within our St. Lawrence Parish family. My dear brothers and sisters, whenever you come across these new communicants, wherever it may be, but particularly when you see them in church, extend a warm welcome, share in their joy, and celebrate their presence. Let them know that they are not just guests but cherished members of Our Lord's Eucharistic Table, part of our spiritual family of St. Lawrence Parish. Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** April 21 Parish @ \$1916. Catholic Foundation @ @1443. Thank You.

**Special Collection** – Catholic Home Missions, May 4 & 5

**Coffee & Donuts:** May 12 following the 9:30 AM Mass in Ceader Hall. All are welcome to this Parish sponsored activity.

### You Know you are Old when:

- The biggest lie you tell yourself is, "I don't need to write that down. I will remember it.
- Even duct tape can not fix stupid, but it will muffle the sound.
- It would be wonderful if we could put ourselves in the dryer for 10 minutes, then come out wrinkle-free and three sizes smaller.
- Lately, you have noticed people your age are so much older than you.
- Growing old should have taken longer
- "One for the Road" means a stop in the bathroom before you leave.
- Aging has slowed you down, but is has not shut you up.