

January 7 2024 – The Epiphany of the Lord

Saturday – January 6th – Vigil Mass

5PM: Robert Kaspern (Jane Burger)

Sunday – January 7th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Steve Papiernik (Dolores Bonk)

Monday – January 8th – The Baptism of the Lord

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Tuesday – January 9th – Weekday- First Week in Ordinary Time

9AM: Special Intentions (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Wednesday – January 10th – Weekday

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Protection for Unborn Babies and Their Expectant Mothers

Thursday – January 11th – Weekday

9AM: No Mass – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – January 12th – Weekday

9AM: Safety and Best Wishes for All Students in 2024 School Year

Saturday – January 13th – Weekday – St. Hilary, Bishop & Doctor of the Church

9AM: Intentions of Constance Karg (Lay Carmelite Community)

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, Louis Cortese III, Patrick D. Brown, Douglas Defreest, Jr., Benny LoScalzo

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence

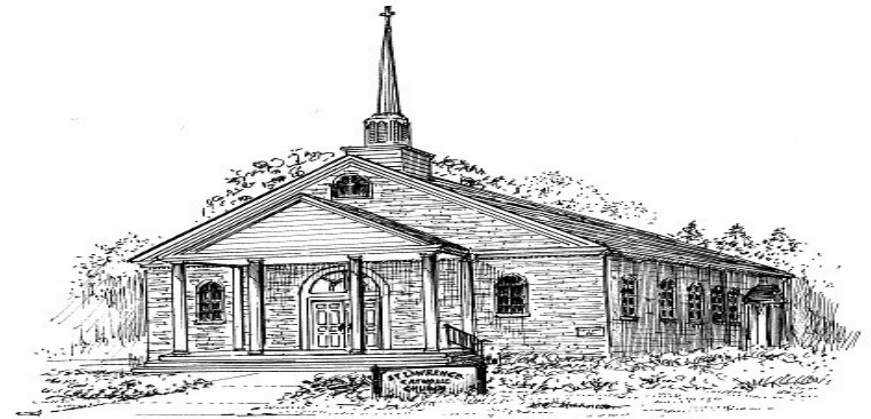
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

Website: 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! January 7 2024

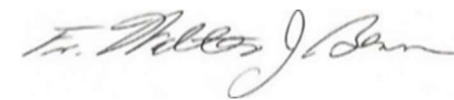
January 7, 2024 / Feast of the Epiphany

It's the *Feast of the Epiphany* and I'm bummed. Why? Because, the *Feast of the Epiphany* marks the conclusion of the beautiful and joy-filled **Christmas Season**. This sounds so judgmental and elitist; but honestly, I feel bad for those who have no religious faith. For the Jewish people as they celebrate Hannukah and for Christians as we celebrate Christmas, it is all about our relationship with God the Father. It is about how He loved us by creating us, by making us His children. It is about the level of suffering and sacrifice that we needed Him to endure after we betrayed His love. It is about showing us the level of love that must be involved when one party wounds the other: One party expresses it by continuing to reach out to the other; the other party expresses it by exercising the humility to own their selfishness, and for having treated the other's love for them in such a trivial way. This is not just a moment of weakness or something that happened once. Rather, this is something that has been going on for at least 3,000 years. If a family counselor was looking down on all of this, he/she would diagnose the human family as dysfunctional, and God the

Father, as an enabler. However, there is nothing dysfunctional about the Father's heart. He will not give up in offering all the love we need to turn back to Him; He will accept any pain if it means His children will have a chance to turn from their self-destructive way. He is not going to inflict that love, nor is He going to compromise that love; he simply offers it to us quietly and lovingly. Look at the circumstances of Jesus's birth. He comes in a human form, which for someone as perfect as God, was degrading. He's born in a stable, to a nice but anonymous couple in the back-waters of the great Roman Empire. A few days after His birth, because he is so insecure, the local King will try to have Him assassinated by having all the baby boys in the Bethlehem area murdered. Should we be surprised, that since then, those among humanity who have recognized this blessing celebrate it in their daily lives, especially at Christmas and Easter. Consider all the rich and beautiful traditions which people from all over the world have cultivated to celebrate this great act of love for them. Consider the centuries of beautiful Christmas music, the special meals that have been handed down through the centuries, the art, the family traditions, the extraordinary efforts that families make

to gather to celebrate the Messiah's coming among us. It has always evolved spontaneously because God's love for us has always been so genuine. It seems almost unfair that we have only two weeks to celebrate it before moving on to other aspects of our faith.

So, my brothers and sisters, as we begin to celebrate "Ordinary Time" in the Church calendar, ask Our Lord to help you not waste the beauty and mystery of the Christmas Season which you are the recipient and custodian of. It is not about the *feel-good* stuff; it is about appreciating the level and times God has loved us when we ignored Him, treated his love for you and those you love, as trivial and waited to see if you would love back. Are we willing to do that?
Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Dec 31 – Parish @ \$1124
Christmas @ \$810, Thank you!

Special Collection – *Catholic Relief Service:*
January 13-14.

Knights of Columbus: meeting Jan 15th @
Ceader Hall @ 7PM - 9PM.

Coffee/Donuts: Jan 14th following the
9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall. All are
welcome.

Holy Name Society: meeting Monday, Jan 8th
@ 7PM @ Ceader Hall.

Mass Intentions 2024: began posting the
week of Dec 24. If you have a list available,
please provide to parish office sooner rather
than later. Individual requests throughout
the year remain on going.

Weekly Contribution Envelopes 2024:
are available for pick up in church. Please
make the time to do so. **Envelopes not
picked up by February 1** will be discarded
and removed from the 2025 envelope list.
No changes can be made to the 2024
product which was completed in October.



Riddles for January 7 2024

- 1) You walk into a room that contains a match, a kerosene lamp, a candle, and a fireplace. What should you light first?
- 2) I have branches, but no fruit, trunk, or leaves. What am I?
- 3) What is so fragile that saying its name breaks it?