

June 4, 2023 – The Most Holy Trinity

Saturday – June 3rd – Vigil Mass

5PM: Patrick Menden (Janice Sebastiano)

Sunday – June 4th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Walter Bonk (Dolores Bonk)

Monday – June 5th – St. Boniface, Bishop & Martyr

9AM: Camille Santospirito (Helfant Family)

Tuesday – June 6th – St. Norbert, Bishop

9AM: Camille Santospirito (Helfant Family)

Wednesday – June 7th – Weekday

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament

9AM: Intentions of Joe Affuso (Lay Carmelite Community)

Thursday – June 8th – Weekday

9AM: No Mass Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – June 9th – St. Ephrem, Deacon & Doctor of the Church

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Saturday – June 10th – Weekday

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

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

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence

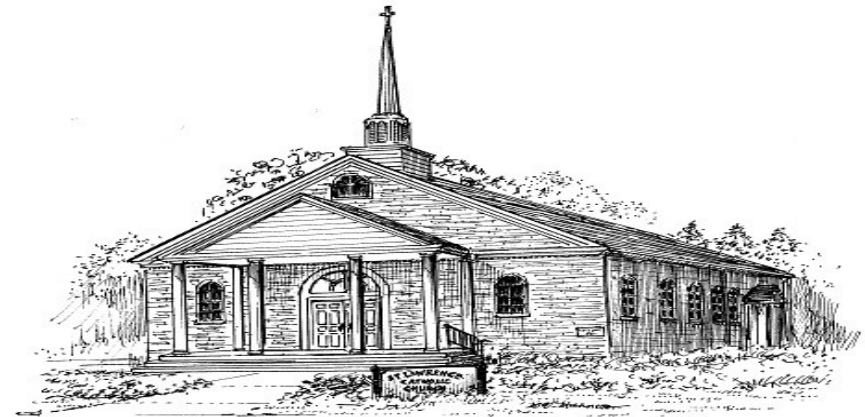
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

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! June 4, 2023

Feast of the Holy Trinity

All feasts that the Church celebrates have a purpose. Usually, they are to emphasize the importance of some event or aspect of God, especially with regards to mankind's redemption and the place Jesus Christ has in it. Yet, there are a few teachings/beliefs/mysteries which many people have a difficult time understanding, which might explain why the Church keeps these beliefs in front of us through the celebration of a Feast which focuses on them. One example would be what we celebrated last week on the Feast of *Pentecost*. Many people struggle to understand what the Holy Spirit is and what our relationship is to the *Holy Spirit*. This week's *Feast of the Holy Trinity* is another challenge for a lot of people. Three Persons in one Nature? Because we are working only with a mind that understands life in the dimensions we can sense, measure, and calculate, it is impossible to understand God in His perfection. Still, since the beginning of time, humanity has struggled to nail it down, especially those within the Judeo/Christian traditions. Our explanation of God in terms of the Trinity is how they came to understand God. We

do not agree on exact beliefs. Some religious groups will emphasize one person of the Trinity over the other; yet, all hold to this basic belief regarding the Nature of God. All of us believe that this is Divinely inspired; that is it is revealed to us by God. Personally, despite my best efforts, I have always found most theologian's explanation of the *Holy Trinity* mind-boggling, and in my weaker moments infuriating. Infuriating, because I feel that it is unnecessarily intellectualized, which most people are not equipped to handle. So, at the risk of sounding heretical, I would like to offer you my understanding of this profound mystery, which God has invited us to participate in. I'm sure some academics might think of my explanation as "dumbing-down"; however, It works for me, and I hope it is helpful to you.

God as Father: Our understanding of the Holy Trinity was greatly influenced by the ancient world's understanding of the only way they knew how to govern, which originated in the family unit, and not surprisingly morphed or was extended to their larger experiences of family, namely the **Tribe** and the **Monarchy**. The head of the family was the father, because [right or wrong] he was considered the strongest and wisest

of the family unit. Along with his wife, the father was the one who contributed to the creation of the family, provided for the family, protected the family, disciplined the family. The father created the traditions of the family. The father was considered the "wise" one. Certainly, the wife/mother played critical roles in the family unit, many of which would not be acknowledged; however just or unjust, it was the father who was the center of the family/tribe/kingdom. When mankind finally came to grips with the belief that there were powers greater than themselves, namely gods or a God, it was natural for them to understand God in terms of how they were experiencing him; namely, as Father {creator, protector, provider, etc.}. This is certainly true of the people of Israel. Think about how they experienced God when He liberated them from slavery in Egypt; how He provided for them during the many years of the Exodus; how He provided for them with great leaders such as Moses and King David; how he was always faithful to them as parent, especially, when as His children were unfaithful to Him. When we approach God today, do you not often speak to Him as Parent/Father? **The First Person of the Holy Trinity!**

God as Son: The time would come in every family/kingdom, when for whatever reason the father could not be present during an important moment in the life of that family/kingdom. What would he do? The king would send his son! In the ancient world, as well as days of recent monarchies, when one ruler of a kingdom spoke with the son of another kingdom, the son's word and opinion reflected his father's; they were one and the same. The son's word/wisdom was that of his father's. Does this not often continue to this day in business or in the resolution of inter-family disagreements? This is how we should understand Jesus as Son. This is a major theme in St. John's Gospel; John always portrays Jesus as never doing or saying anything unless it came from the Father. No one can be in good relationship with God "the Father", unless they heed the words and teachings of the God "the Son".....they are one and the same! **The Second Person of the Trinity: Jesus Christ.**

God as Holy Spirit: Many wonder why it was important for Jesus to leave this world in His human form, just when the magnitude of His Resurrection would have silenced all doubters. He had achieved the complete legitimacy of His divinity and His relationship with the

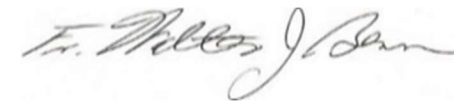
Father. Yet, this would have turned the Resurrection into a hollow victory. From the very beginning, The Father wanted mankind to choose for Him based on His love for them; additionally, the time had come in the formation of the disciples for them to become what they believe and share the Father's love with each other. The Father and Jesus wanted to capture people's hearts, not prejudice their opinions. Mankind's relationship with God will always be about the greatest gift God ever gave us, our **free will**. Adam and Eve used their free will to reject God's request not to eat of the *Tree of Good and Evil*. Through the life and teachings of Jesus, the Father gives mankind the opportunity and the spiritual tools to reverse this mortal wound in their relationship; each of us can either choose for Him or choose to reject Him. Out of love for mankind, the Father will not prejudice our decision; He will not violate our free will.

The Second Person of the Trinity had accomplished what He was sent to do: #1 Convince mankind that they had not lost the Father's Love. #2 Show them what was required to enjoy that Love; namely, that humanity needed to turn away from all forms of sin and to become sources of God's love to those in our lives.

Like the Apostles during the period spanning Holy Thursday thru Pentecost, the followers of Jesus knew they could not do this without His personal presence. Like all parents who realize their children need to make decisions on their own and not have Mommy and Daddy do things for them, the Father realized that the time had come for earthly Jesus to return to the Father. He also recognized that the time had come for humanity {the new Adam's and Eve's} to be given a second chance at redemption, to return home. The time had come for humanity to put their big girl/boy pants on and make a decision to live what Jesus had taught them, with the strength that He promised the Father would provide them with, namely Himself. Jesus would continue His presence, but in a different way.....a mysterious way. How would the followers of Jesus be able to become Him to each other and to the people of the world without Him? Without the Master, they could not. With the Master they would. Then, how would the Master be present to all His disciples simultaneously, for all time? It would be through His **Holy Spirit**! God has no intention of having his presence and love limited, because of the limitations of one physical body. It is a

mystery that can be challenging, but when we bring it to **prayer** with **authentic faith**, when we rely on the Sacramental grace of our Baptism, Confirmation, Reconciliation and the Holy Eucharist to the equation, the clarity certainty comes: **The Third Person of the Holy Trinity: The Holy Spirit.**

Your companion in the *mysterious* journey, Fr. Walter Benn



Collections: May 28th Parish @ \$3681, Candles @ \$117, Missions @ \$25. Thank you.

Coffee & Donuts: Sunday, June 11th following the 9:30AM Mass @ Ceader Hall. All Welcome.



meeting on Monday, June 19th @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall.

Moses: live on stage at the Sight & Sound Theater. August 16th. Bus departs @ 7:45AM, returns 6:30PM. Includes lunch. \$120 pp. Sign-up sheets in vestibule. Info: Mary Capobianco @ 610-252-7075



Day Trip: Women of our parish are invited to visit the Shrine of Padre Pio on Friday, June 16 located in Barto, PA on the Canonization anniversary of Padre Pio. Praying the rosary @ 11:30AM followed with Mass @ 12 noon. Planning lunch stop on return trip. Departing St. Lawrence at 9:45AM Contact Mary Senior via text @ 267-882-5586 if interested in attending.

Parish Council Election Results: Taken on 5/27-28: NAMES ?????????? Thank you for your participation in the process.

Ever Wonder.....

- Why can't you wear white after Labor Day? Whose rule is that anyway? At what point does it become "before" Labor Day?
- When does a pebble become a stone, and a stone become a rock and a rock become a boulder?
- Why can't you go up the down stair case? Who enforces that anyway?