

March 10, 2024 – Fourth Sunday of Lent

Saturday – March 9th – Vigil Mass

5PM: John Pavlica- 35th yr. Deceased Anniversary (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Sunday – March 10th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Monday – March 11th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Sister Judith Andrews, SJH (St. Lawrence Parish)

Tuesday – March 12th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Sister Judith Andrews, SJH (St. Lawrence Parish)

Wednesday – March 13th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM
Nathan Burke, US Navy- Casualty (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Thursday – March 14th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: No Mass – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – March 15th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Souls in Purgatory (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Saturday – March 16th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Gold Star Families Mourning Their Loss

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, Steve Ombalski, Jane Burger, Ginny LaBar

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence

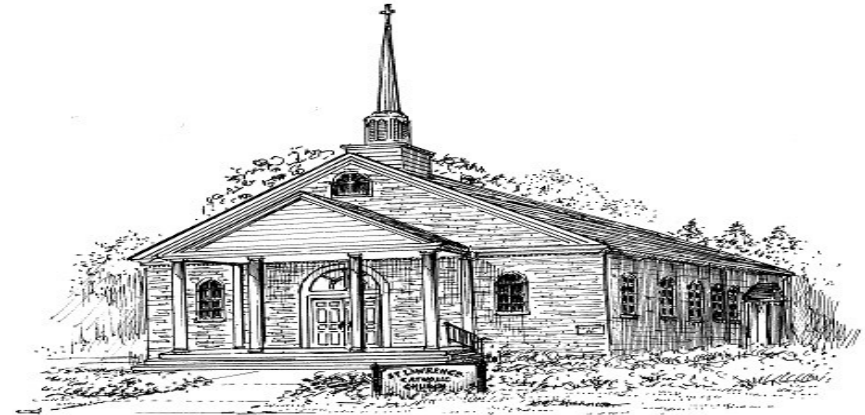
345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

Rectory: 610-749-2684

Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

[Website: saint-lawrence-church.org](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! March 10, 2024

The **tone** and **theme** of this week's Gospel picks up where last week's left off. Last week, St. John shared the beautiful conversion story of the *Women at the Well*. Through her interaction with Jesus, we watched her journey from a spiritual position of being estranged from God, to becoming a humble, contrite, and enthusiastic daughter of God, all because she was willing to set aside her pride and risk opening her heart to His healing presence. As you listened to that story, did you not feel joy for her? Were you not encouraged in renewing your own journey with God?

On the surface, today's Gospel might not seem the same, but it is. Once again, John shares another heart rendering story of someone who on the surface, seems beyond having a relationship with God, and certainly beyond His love. It is about a man born blind from birth. The religious beliefs of the time inferred that if bad things happened to a person, it must be because he/she **is bad!** How wrong! How cruel! In this blind man, we once again see someone who has been on a life long journey doing his best to stay in relationship with God, but never given credit for it. We see Jesus **immediately recognizing this, and immediately** loving him by unburdening him of this lifelong weight. We also see that when Our Lord does this, He liberates this man not only of a physical handicap, He also liberates him from the

stigma of being presumed to be a bad person, a person rejected by God. In short, Our Lord liberates this man in so many ways because that is what God had always intended for man and woman from the beginning. Notice that as the story progresses, like the women at the well, the **spiritual insight** of the former blind man increases, while the religious sight of the religious leaders' atrophies. In their arrogance and prejudice, they grow more and more blind, while the object of their cruelty gains more and more spiritual clarity. The former blind man grows from being a humbled powerless man begging for financial help and the physical assistance he needs just to reach the usual location of his public begging, to one who is no longer intimidated by authorities. He speaks out. He challenges them for their hypocrisy. He takes risks. He also chooses not to spend time celebrating his newly gained sight, but immediately chooses to use his newly gained freedom and follow Jesus. Even during such seemingly overwhelming evil, God once again shows how He can transform those who are weak, powerless, and seemingly unattractive. **Nothing is Impossible for God! No One is beyond the reach and touch of His affection, His compassion, and His Love! No one!** The only ones who are, are those who refuse His Love. Those who refuse to admit they need His love, are easily identified, because they are the ones who refuse to offer God's Love to those in need.

My brothers & sisters, this story, and the lessons it contains are rich with starting points for our Lenten prayer and reflection. Can we say that there is no trace of the religious authorities in our lives? Can we say that we are not like the Blind Man's parents who are willing to let their son hang out to dry, rather than speak up for his innocence? Can we claim our lives are characterized by the humility, the unselfishness and especially, the courageous gratitude of the noble man healed of his blindness? If there is anyone who says that they do not know what Lent is about, or how to spend the Season of Lent, she/he will find the answers reflecting on this Gospel story.

Your flawed brother in Christ,



Collections: March 3 Parish @ \$2,260, Fuel @ \$212, Rice Bowl @ \$53, Catholic Charities @ \$25, Easter Flowers @ \$80, Donation @ \$5,000. Thank You.

Special Collection: Church in Latin America, March 9-10

Williams Township Historical Society: presents "Early School Houses" Sunday, March 10 @ 3PM @ St. John's Church @ 2720 Morgan Hill Rd. Historian presents: discussions, Photos, maps, etc. @ this free presentation. More info @ 610-253-8895

Stations of the Cross: all Fridays during Lent @ 12 Noon & 7PM followed by confessions.

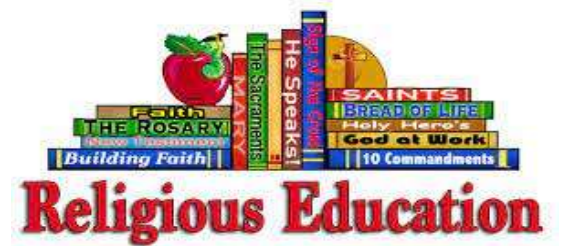
Lenten Soup Suppers: every Friday of Lent 6PM-7PM

Lenten Liturgical Calendar: in vestibule, yellow color paper, provides greater detail.

Coffee & Donuts: March 10 following the 9:30AM Sunday Mass @ Ceader Hall. All Welcome!!

Holy Name Society: meeting March 11 @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall.

Knights of Columbus: meeting March 18 @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall.



Financial Assistance: Action Item: Forms now available in vestibule for the Fall 2023/Spring 2024 school year provided by the Ceader Trust Trustees. Time sensitive, act now. **Deadline April 7, 2024.** For previously registered parishioners of St. Lawrence only!!