

March 3, 2024 – Third Sunday of Lent

Saturday – March 2nd – Vigil Mass

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday – March 3rd – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Margaret Durns (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Monday – March 4th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Sister Judith Andrews – SJH (Bernie Boylan)

Tuesday – March 5th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Sister Judith Andrews SJH (Dolores Bonk)

Wednesday – March 6th – Lenten Weekday

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM
Sister Judith Andrews – SJH (Mark/Fern Culichia)

Thursday – March 7th – Lenten Weekday – St. Perpetua & Felicity, Martyrs

9AM: No Mass – Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – March 8th – Lenten Weekday – St. John of God, Religious

9AM: Bill Gavin (Bernie Boylan)

Saturday – March 9th – Lenten Weekday – St. Frances of Rome, Religious

9AM: Rose Myers (Ted/Janet Achuff)

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

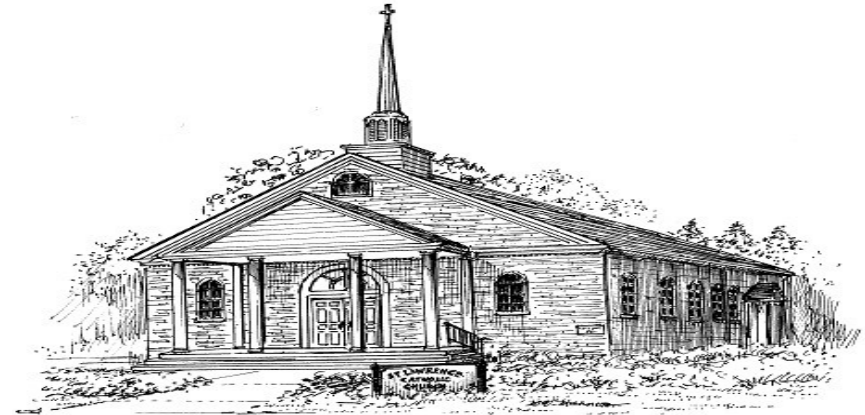
Church of Saint Lawrence

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

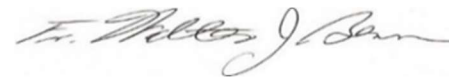
Pastor's Corner! March 3, 2024

Today's readings are those chosen by the Church to reflect the experience of those participating in their parish's RCIA program; they are associated with the experience of **conversion**; the choice one makes when one stops and redirects the direction of one's life. This involves turning away from one set of values which they are familiar and comfortable with, and choosing to embrace another set of values. In the first reading, we heard how the Israelites were becoming frustrated and scared over their choice to follow God because of the hardships involved in their journey and the time it was taking them to reach the Promised Land. In the second reading, St. Paul acknowledges to the Christians in Rome that their choice to turn to Jesus Christ will involve suffering, sometimes even death. And then there is our Gospel, with its beautiful story of a woman daring to undergo her own *conversion*. The story begins with two people who, culturally and religiously, move in opposite directions. To make matters worse, their people were imbued with deep prejudices against each other, plus a conviction that their opposite beliefs were bankrupt. The *Story of the Woman at the Well* tells us of an individual who was seen as a spiritual failure, even among her own people. She had been married 5 times and was currently living with another man. This is why she travels to the well each day to draw water at the hottest

time of the day because she cannot bear to endure the rejection and gossiping of the other women who would come in the morning. There are two things that we should not miss in this story. #1 Jesus cares enough about her that He initiates this interaction. In doing so, he opens himself to serious criticism by both Jews and Samaritans for socializing with a woman who is unaccompanied by some male relations from her family. He risks serious criticism from any Jew for socializing with a Samaritan. He risks rejection and hostility from the woman for putting her in another conflicted position with her people. His love for this person who needs and deserves healing must be recognized in his actions. Because of that, He risks all. #2 We should be careful not to be blind to the humility and courage this woman exercises as she is gradually but compassionately confronted with her sinfulness and the limitations of her beliefs about how God will return to the world to draw her and all people back to Himself. Jesus does not allow her initial hostility to discourage or blind Him from seeing that she is a wounded child of God worthy of her God's love. No wound can be healed if it is not recognized. Jesus helps her to recognize and own her sins by disarming her with respect, patience, and compassion. And when that happens, this unnamed woman begins her process of conversion. By turning away from what was destructive to her for years, she experiences healing and then takes on the role of a

disciple as she brings others to Jesus. Because of her, the whole town eventually embraces their own *conversion* experience.

During these days of Lent, remember the two essential points of this story. #1 Let us not be so proud that we cannot see the woman at the well and choose to allow Jesus' access to our hearts. Let us have the courage and the humility to allow Our Lord to engage us in conversation about issues in our lives that we know have not been resolved. #2 Let us unselfishly share the benefits of our *conversion* experiences with others so that they might know the experience of being unburdened by Our Lord. Your brother in Christ,



Collections: Feb 25 Parish @ \$3300, Fuel @ \$100, Rice Bowl @ \$10, Catholic Charities @ \$35. 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.

Altar Rosary Society: *REVISED* March meeting date. Now March 7 @ 7PM @ Ceadar Hall.

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



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

Catholic Charities Appeal 2024 began in February. Direct mail from AOP will be sent. Also, in pew donation envelopes available. Payable to **Catholic Charities** not St. Lawrence

Riddle Answers for February 25

1 Footsteps, # 2 They all have rings., # 3 A Postage Stamp., # 4 He is self-employed., # 5 Work., # 6 He could not see himself doing the job., # 7 He exceeds in web design., # 8 twenty-three years old