

**March 31, 2024 – Easter Sunday – Resurrection of the Lord**

**Saturday – March 30th – Vigil Mass**

9AM: No Mass Today

**7:30PM Easter Vigil Mass** – Incense Used – Tom Murphy – Usher – Deceased (Altar Rosary)

**Sunday – March 31st – Mass is Streamed Live- Easter Sunday**

9:30: For Every Person Struggling to Find God

**Monday – April 1st – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

9AM: Sister Judith Andrews, SJH (Mary Gambino)

**Tuesday – April 2nd – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

9AM: Irene/Joseph Moninghoff (Barbara Itterly)

**Wednesday – April 3rd – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM

9AM: Sylvester/Anna Ecker (Helfant Family)

**Thursday – April 4th – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

9AM: No Mass – Reading & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – April 5th – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Saturday – April 6th – Weekday – Within the Octave of Easter**

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

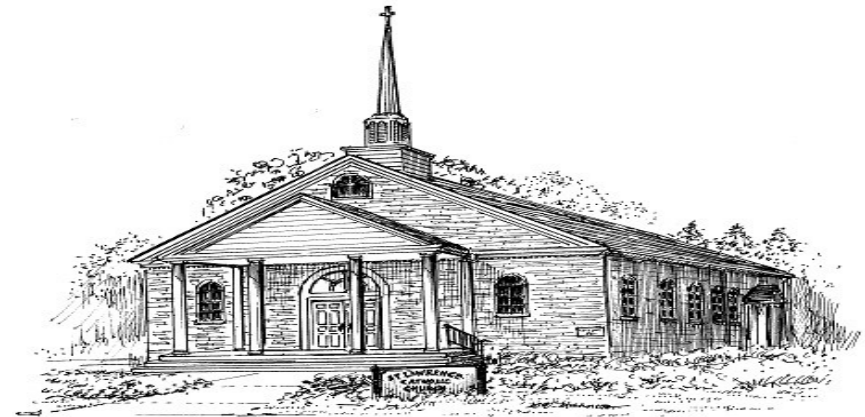
Riegelsville, PA 18077

**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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Email: [saintlawrence@verizon.net](mailto:saintlawrence@verizon.net)

[Website: saint-lawrence-church.org](http://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 31, 2024

It would be wrong of me to infer, in any way, that after all the powerful Gospel stories we have reflected on during the seven weeks of Lent, today's Resurrection Gospel is almost anti-climactic. Aside from Jesus's response to the people and circumstances involved in those Gospel stories, recall the response of the other characters of those stories: the man born blind from birth, the woman at the well in Sychar, Martha, Mary & Lazarus, the woman who anoints Jesus with costly aromatic nard, the ruthless and slanderous religious authorities, the Apostles, St. John the Baptist, Herod, Pontius Pilot, the crowds who came to hear Jesus, the crowd standing at the foot of the Cross, the Blessed Mother along with the other women who bravely accompanied her on the way to Calvary, Mary Magdalene, Simon of Cyrene, the two criminals crucified with Jesus, the soldiers who made up Jesus' execution detail; Joseph of Arimathea and Nicodemus. All of them were exposed to the goodness of Jesus, to Jesus' message that assured them that the Father loved them and sought them to return to Him in Heaven for all eternity. Strange as it sounds, Jesus was

drawing them to Himself, the Cross, the Upper Room, and the Garden on Easter Sunday morning. It was a lot for them to process, and it would take a long time for them to understand and eventually choose to follow Our Lord. All of that is understandable. However, many never gave themselves a chance to discover Jesus, primarily because of their pride and their lack of courage; in their mind and heart, the burden for their relationship with Jesus was on Jesus. If Jesus challenged them to give up anything in their values, priorities, or destructive behavior to themselves or others, they lost their affinity with that man from Nazareth. Jesus' message was that the road back to the Father is challenging but worth it.....the Father is at the end of that road, waiting with great joy for you and me.....Often, Our Lord would describe life with the Father in terms that those from the Eastern cultures could identify with; namely, life with the Father will be like an *unending banquet*. Though unpleasant, the sacrifices that will be required will pass and become a part of an eternal past. Our Lord's Resurrection primarily anchors all of Christianity's beliefs because the Father shows us how serious he is about His promise. On Easter Sunday, he was

strutting His stuff. As He has done for the Son, He will do for us, His children. We have reason to rejoice as we celebrate Easter. This is the reason for our ***Alleluias!*** **Christianity is for Adults.** Our faith might start with the joy and innocence of a child, as it should. Still, eventually, as happens for all children, the time comes when we must put our Big Girl and Big Boy pants on and take responsibility for God's heart, as we trust that He has taken responsibility for our hearts. Jesus' Resurrection is the greatest gift that the Father could give us, and it is up to us to trust in it, to treasure its promise, and to live our daily lives as a way of being worthy of such a love... an undeserved but freely offered Divine Love. One cannot do it and will not reach for it if they do not take God seriously. So, I encourage you, my brothers and sisters, as adults, to pray over the life of Our Lord; pray over his teachings; pray over His deeds; they were meant not only for the betterment and benefit of the Martha's, Mary's, Lazarus's, Nicodemus', citizens of the desert town of Sychar, for the Pontius Pilots, Herod's, Simon of Cyrene's, Magdalene's and crowds flocking to Jesus' during His lifetime, but for you and me on March 31, 2024 and all of the Easters that will fill our earthly

lives. What will we have to show for it? Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** March 24 Parish @ \$2926, Donation LCC @ \$100, Easter Flowers @ \$311, Holy Land @ \$75. Thank You.



**Easter Egg Hunt:** The annual Parish egg hunt will be held on Easter Sunday after the 9:30AM Mass. This event, sponsored by the Holy Name Society, is open to all Parish children. Please remember to bring a basket and your camera

**Holy Name Society:** meeting April 8 @ Ceader Hall @ 7PM

**Coffee & Donuts:** April 14 @ Ceader Hall following the 9:30AM Mass.

**Night at the Races:** Saturday, April 27. Doors open @6PM. Races start @ 7PM



being held on Saturday, April 27<sup>th</sup>. Doors open @ 6PM with races starting @ 7PM. This is a family friendly event open to everyone. Consider inviting friends &

neighbors. Donation of door prizes & backed goods are greatly appreciated. Horses available for purchase @ \$10 each with a 1 in 10 chance of winning \$50. Thank you for supporting this annual Holy Name Society fund raiser providing a helpful hand to those in need throughout our Parish Community.

### Mother's Retreat!

JoAnne Diaz of Easton is a Catholic mother of 10 children. She has come to appreciate the challenges and blessings of motherhood, and the importance of Our Lord in a mother's life. Over the past few years, JoAnne has conducted a Spring retreat for mothers and grandmothers. Her next retreat will be offered on Saturday, April 13<sup>th</sup> {8:30 AM – 3 PM} in **Fellowship Hall, 2012 Sullivan Trail, Easton, Pa.** For details and registration info consult the parish website.



**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!!

**Divine Mercy Sunday:** All are invited to pray the Chaplet of the Divine Mercy on Saturday, April 6th and Sunday Morning, April 7th. The Chaplet begins immediately following the singing of the closing hymn at Mass.

To fittingly observe the Feast of Mercy, we should:

+Celebrate the Feast on Sunday after Easter + Sincerely repent of all our sins. + Place our complete Trust in Jesus. + Go to Confession before Sunday + Receive Holy Communion on the day of the Feast or at the Vigil Mass + Venerate the image of the Divine Mercy + Be Merciful to others; through our actions, words, and prayers on their behalf. + To venerate a sacred image performing some act or gesture of deep religious respect towards the person whom the image represents – in this case, our Most Merciful Savior

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### Children's Liturgy of the Word!

Four years ago, we attempted to include a *Children's Liturgy of the Word* program within our weekly 9:30 AM Sunday Mass. Two gracious parishioners stepped forward and began their preparation for this Ministry. Unfortunately, we weren't able to pull it off. No doubt you have noticed the growing number of young parents joining our celebrations, and they wonderfully bring their

children. We want to establish this Program again. *Children's Liturgy of the Word* is simple. One does not have to be a theologian; it lasts for about 20-25 minutes or less on any given Sunday if the little people are getting antsy. The focus groups are Pre-School, Kindergarten, and 1st Graders. As much as they may want to participate, we feel older children need to experience the Eucharist with the adults, particularly since they are preparing for their First Holy Communion. We might concede if the younger child is willing to go if their older sister or brother participates.

#### The goal of the Program:

We want to impress upon our children that they are unique and that there is a special place in Mass for them. We also want to expose them to the experience of *community* with the adults of our parish and their peers.

The children receive the opportunity to listen to scripture on their level.

It gives mothers and fathers a break where they don't have to wrestle with their restless child.

#### How does the program work?

After the priest prays the *Opening Prayer*, he will invite any children who want to participate in the Children's Liturgy of the Word to come forward. The children and the adult leaders go into the main aisle. Father will hand their book to one of the children, give them a short blessing, and the adults lead them downstairs to Ceadar Hall. They will remain there while the adults listen to the

Scripture Readings and Homily. Sometime during the Profession of Faith, Apostles' Creed, or the Prayers of the Faithful, the children return upstairs to be reunited with their parents.

#### The Adult Leaders:

In a perfect world, we would like 2-3 adults each Sunday to lead children. That is unlikely, however, because of Child Protection Protocols. There must be a minimum of two adults with the children.

The adults will be provided with a set program to follow. Sometimes, the Program provides a Bible story on the child's level. Other times, it will be a religious topic such as prayer, forgiveness, or respect for another person, such as your friends.

All adults will be required to participate in the standard child protection protocols required of anyone working with children. Included among these are acquiring a State Police check, fingerprinting, participating in a brief lecture that can be done online, and finally, participating in one in-person group session. This sounds like a lot, but you will be surprised how easy it is.

Having this Program as a part of our parish spirituality will be such a blessing. I ask that those of you who are attracted to it pray about it and not hesitate to contact me or speak with a PREP catechist or a teacher from a Catholic school. Please think of how this Program can only enrich our parish.

Fr. Walter Benn