

May 12, 2024 – Ascension of The Lord

Saturday – May 11th – Vigil Mass

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday – May 12th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Intentions of John Scolavino (Mary Scolavino)

Monday – May 13th – Easter Weekday – Our Lady of Fatima

9AM: Nathan Burke – Veteran – Died in Service (Ted/Janet Achuff)

Tuesday – May 14th – Easter Weekday – St. Matthias, Apostle

9AM: Scolavino Family (Mary Scolavino)

Wednesday – May 15th – Easter Weekday – St. Isidore

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM
Fr. Gavin Muir, Pastor, Deceased 5/15/18 (Altar Rosary Society)

Thursday – May 16th – Easter Weekday

9AM: No Services Today

Friday – May 17th – Easter Weekday

9AM: Intentions of John Brezina (Mary Scolavino)

Saturday – May 18th – Easter Weekday – St. John I, Pope & Martyr

9AM: Irene & Joseph Moninghoff (Barbara Itterly)

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

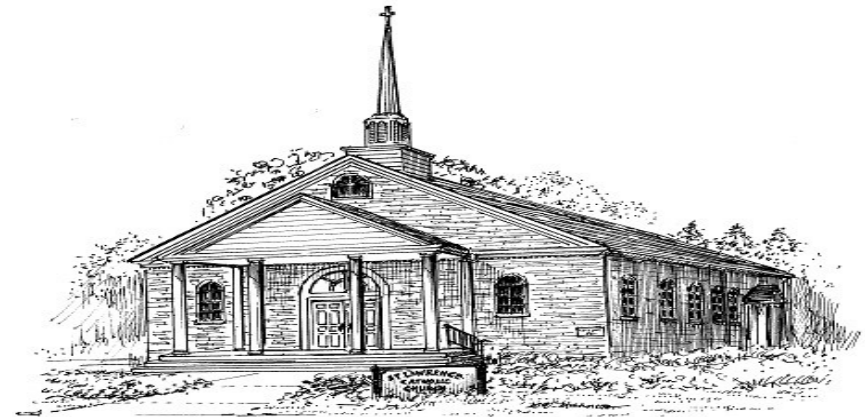
Church of Saint Lawrence

345 Elmwood Lane
Riegelsville, PA 18077

Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

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, 12 Noon & 7PM; Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday, Saturday @ 9AM, Thursday No Services.

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! May 12, 2024

Ascension of Our Lord

The Future of the American Church + Its Impact on the Archdiocese of Philadelphia: Part 2

Last week, I shared with you a new and disturbing reality that has been developing over the previous four decades in the Church, namely, the precipitous drop-off in the numbers of people who claim to be Catholic but no longer are active in any way within the Catholic Church. I'm sure most of you weren't shocked by this because you have been witnessing it over those four decades yourselves; nevertheless, the numbers are alarming: 17% of people who identify as being Catholic are active, and 83 % are no longer active. This has impacted how the Church sees itself, functions, and fulfills its mission of calling people to the Catholic Faith. Initially, the Bishops responded by trying to be financially efficient. Starting around 2009-10, many dioceses underwent detailed studies of their school systems, social agencies, and parishes, closing dozens of parish schools and combining them with neighboring parish schools. When that process was completed, their focus shifted to every parish in their Diocese. I

don't recall the exact numbers, but about 1/4 to 1/3 of all parishes were closed or "Twinned" with a neighboring parish. The mindset was to make all parishes financially healthy. To a certain extent, it achieved this goal, but despite the best efforts of every parish and their dedicated staff, it did not stop the continuing exodus of people from the Church. Consequently, as a Church, we have had to critique ourselves again; it has been difficult. The reason for the difficulty is that Catholics love tradition; they have been willing to make incredible sacrifices for their parish and are comfortable with discipline; yet, now it seems that the fruit of those traits can no longer carry the American Church as we knew it. Because of those character strengths, the American Church, over the last 200 + years, has grown and operated on an incredible scale. Many of us from our youth lived through those final Golden Years. It might seem presumptuous, but I believe the American Church moved from being a Missionary Church, to the strength of the Universal Church. This is not a matter of being wrong or mistaken "all along". With the passage of time, when historians analyze us, they will undoubtedly be able to identify aspects/approaches where warning signs were not recognized or that

we held on certain to some time-proven approaches that were no longer effective in inspiring many of the faithful. Bottom Line: we need to look at other models of the Church. This does not mean that the "new" models will be radically different; however, the central expectation that is going to center every model is the notion that every Catholic, every parish, every school, every University, and every Diocese must rediscover and embrace the attitude of a Missionary Disciple. It is easier to describe a missionary disciple in reverse. As a member of our Catholic community, you play a crucial role in this. Your understanding and embrace of the missionary disciple attitude will be instrumental in shaping the future of our Church.

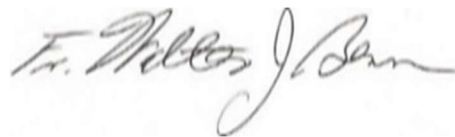
First, consider Our Lord's disciples before the Calvary event. They loved the Lord and were intellectually in agreement with everything He said and did; however, they were comfortable allowing Him to be the face, voice, and person of His teachings. They always presumed that he would be taking all the risks and that they would not have to. As we can see, the Crucifixion changed all of that. Only after the descent of the Holy Spirit upon them, following Our Lord's Ascension into heaven, did they realize the great

responsibility which Our Lord was tasking them with. The world's people need them to step forward, and whether they understand it or misunderstand it, they have a right to expect it.

Second, all the disciples of Our Lord were expected to have the spirit of a missionary. A missionary has discovered a way of life in which one can anchor their life, and they can do this because it leads to a direction and peace in their lives that nothing in the world can match. Those of you who have encountered missionaries are always impressed by them. Are we not always impressed by how hopeful, optimistic, and inspiring a missionary is; they carry within them a sense of peace and direction that permeates their ministry. For a missionary, the glass is half full, not half empty. This understanding of what is involved in being a disciple, who anchors her/his spiritual life as a missionary {personal prayer life, the Eucharist, devotion to their people} attracts the Archdiocesan teams working on this new model. In their mind, it is those laymen, religious, and clergy who work at cultivating the spirituality of a missionary disciple who will anchor the American Church as it re-calibrates itself for the remainder of the millennium.

Bulletin INSERT May 12, 2024

Next week, I'll touch on the model that our Archdiocese and 2-3 others are currently attracted to and discuss how this model will play out. Keep in mind that this is all preliminary. The Archdiocese has been in discussions with the priests through group conferences and Zoom sessions for nearly two years, and they have just begun consulting with the laity via the same means. Although the overall model will be applied to every parish and region, many regions live within distinct circumstances; the Archdiocese will do its best to respect that, but the ultimate factor determining how that region will experience the Church is by who among those parishes, schools, and parishioners understand themselves and their parish as one having a spirit of a **missionary disciple**. The final implementation of all this work will not begin until 2026. This new model, focusing on the missionary disciple attitude, brings a new sense of hope and direction to our Church. It is a model we can all be excited about and look forward to. Your brother in Christ,



Collections: May 5th Parish & Catholic Home Mission @ will post next week. Thank You.

Coffee & Donuts: May 12 following the 9:30 AM Mass in Ceader Hall. All are welcome to this Parish sponsored activity.

Holy Name Society: meeting May 13 @ Ceader Hall @ 7PM



Riddles Answers from May 5, 2024

#1 he is an astronaut; #2 they got canned, #3 money, #4 December 31 and today is January 1, #5 one egg, after that the basket is not empty.



Mother's Day - Thoughts

A mother is she who can take the place of all others, but whose place no one else can take."

"To the world, you are a mother but to your family, you are the world."

"Motherhood: All love begins and ends here."

"Youth fades; love droops; the leaves of friendship fall; A mother's secret hope outlives them all."

"A mother's love does not set with the sun. It blankets you all through the night."

"It was your mom's turn to carry you when you were young. It is your turn to carry her when she grows old."

"A Mother can hug you just with a smile"

