

May 5, 2024 – Sixth Sunday of Easter

Saturday – May 4th – Vigil Mass

5PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Sunday – May 5th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: Eugene/Theresa DellaCroce (Helfant Family)

Monday – May 6th – Easter Weekday

9AM: Blessing for All Married Couples

Tuesday – May 7th – Easter Weekday

9AM: Aliba Macor (Dolan Family)

Wednesday – May 8th – Easter Weekday

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament – 9:30AM – 11AM
Those Who Have Lost Hope, May Find It Again

Thursday – May 9th – Ascension of The Lord – Holy Day of Obligation

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence
7PM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Friday – May 10th – Easter Weekday – St. John of Avila, Priest & Doctor of Church

9AM: Blessings to All New Born Babies and Their Mothers

Saturday – May 11th – Easter Weekday

9AM: World Peace

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

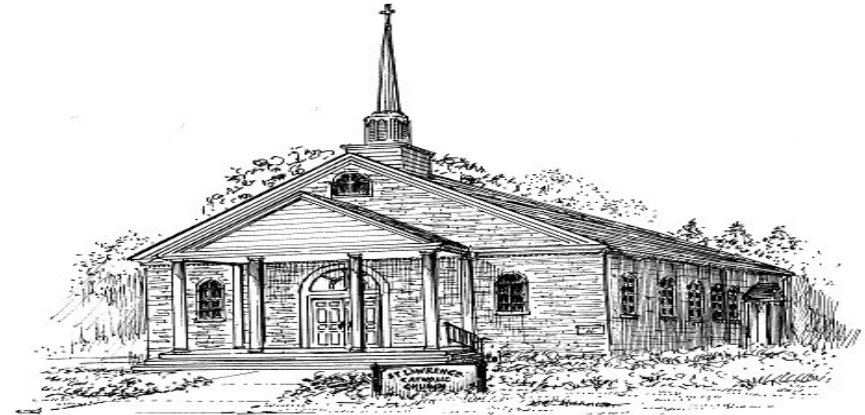
Church of Saint Lawrence

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 & 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! May 5, 2024

***The Future of the American Church
+ It's impact on the Archdiocese of
Philadelphia Part 1***

No doubt, many of you have a sense that in the last couple of decades, there has been a steady drop-off in participation in the life of the Church among those who identify as *Catholic* and those actively participating in the life of the Church. This trend is something that all religious institutions have been experiencing, both within the Protestant and Jewish churches. Within the Catholic Church, the most recent statistics show that only **17% of all people who identify as Catholics are active in their faith**, which means they participate in the Eucharist each Sabbath and do their best to live according to the teachings of the Faith. It is an understatement to say that this is alarming! Like everyone else involved in the life of the Church, the American Bishops, along with concerned laymen, have been tracking this trend and are asking ourselves, "What about the other 83%?"

Another alarming statistic that has grabbed Church leadership's attention is the significant drop in the number of men

ordained to the priesthood. The same can be said of women entering the Religious Life. For example, during my ten years in the seminary, 90 + men were members of my class somewhere during those ten years. When the dust settled, 34 were ordained {2 for the Diocese of Kentucky, 4 for the Diocese of Allentown, and 28 for the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.} The total number of men ordained for Philadelphia over the last ten years was???

The trends are undeniable, and responding can no longer be delayed.

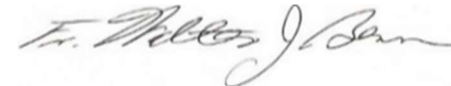
In 2021, the Bishops recognized that the American Church must do two things: 1) find creative [not gimmicky] ways to bring back those among the 83% who have lost any attraction to the Church and a belief they can encounter God through it. 2) Prepare the Dioceses of the American Church to devise and implement a new understanding of what it means for Catholics to be Church.

Guided by several dedicated and talented laymen, the initial studies exposed three painful but apparent realities: 1) We must downsize. 2) We must emphasize quality over quantity. 3) We cannot be afraid to consider new models of the Church. Ironically, the

"new" model they returned was not new; instead, it was to return to the experience of the Ancient Church. They may have been a minority and suffered the prejudices of their surrounding culture, but those early Christians were filled with the joyful and confident spirit of the **missionary**. They may have had zero resources as we understand resources today, but they had an abundance of Faith and were filled with the Master's Peace. The cynical may feel this last observation is naïve and powerless; yet, through the inspiration of Our Lord's Holy Spirit, those persecuted generations of Christians managed to convert the pagan Roman Empire within three centuries.....all because they believed something Our Lord had impressed upon them at their Baptism; namely, the responsibility of offering everyone in their lives Our Lord's *Good News!*

Next week, I will resume this commentary with **Part 2**. It won't be super-detailed, but I hope to convey a sense of this process and how they see everyone's part in it.

Your brother in Christ,



Collections: April 28 Parish @ \$3456.
Thank You.

Special Collection – Catholic Home Missions, May 4 & 5

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 May 5, 2024

- 1) A man was just doing his job when his suit was torn. He dies a few minutes later. Why?
- 2) What happened to the beans when they showed up later for work?
- 3) People make me, save me, change me, raise me. What am I?
- 4) The day before yesterday I was 21, and next year I will be 24. When is my birthday?
- 5) There is an empty basket that is one foot in diameter. What is the total number of eggs you can put in this empty basket?