

September 15, 2024 – Twenty-Fourth Sunday in Ordinary Time

Saturday – Sept. 14th – Vigil Mass

5PM: All Victims & First Responders of 911 (Parish Community)

Sunday – Sept. 15th – Mass is Streamed Live

9:30: For All Victims of Violence (Parish Community)

Monday – Sept. 16th – Weekday – St. Comelius, Pope & Cyprian, Bishop, Martyrs

9AM: Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

Tuesday – Sept. 17th – Weekday – St. Robert Bellarmine, Bishop; St. Hildegard of Bingen

9AM: All Persons Struggling with Illnesses (Parish Community)

Wednesday – Sept. 18th – Weekday –

9AM: Exposition of Blessed Sacrament 9:30AM to 11AM
Intentions of Rex/Mariann Helfant (Helfant Family)

Thursday – Sept. 19th – Weekday – St. Januarius, Bishop & Martyr

9AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

Friday – Sept. 20th – Weekday – St. Andrew Kim Tae-gon, Priest

9AM: All Expecting Mothers (Parish Community)

Saturday – Sept. 21st – Weekday – St. Mathew, Apostle

9AM: All Seeking Employment (Parish Community)

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, Marciano Alves Viera, Bernadette Maszczak, Shawn Kelly, Beth Collins

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

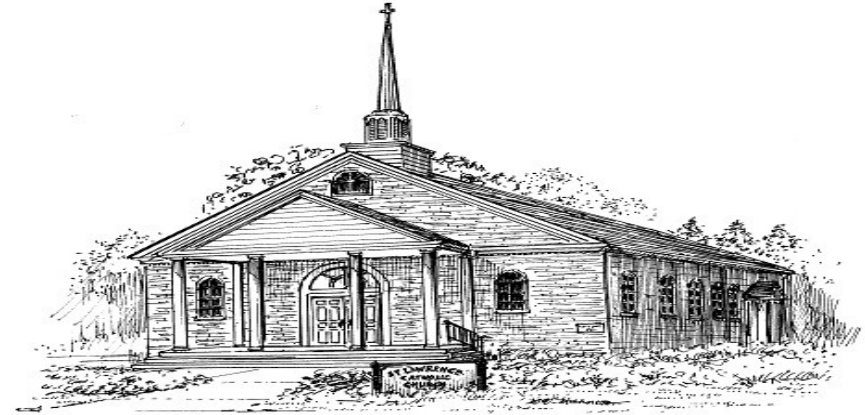
Church of Saint Lawrence

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://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 Readings & Communion Distribution Only.

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! Sept 15, 2024

Today's Gospel involves a very quick but serious lesson about discipleship for the Apostles. Jesus initiates it with a seemingly innocent question. *"Who do people say that I am?"* It's easy for the Apostles to answer that question because it doesn't involve them; however, their lesson progresses as fast as it took them to say, *"John the Baptist, others Elijah, or one of the prophets."* Jesus follows this up by asking them directly, *"But who do you say that I am."* Impressively, they respond, *"You are the Christ."* Then, Jesus throws a bucket of cold water on them and tells them, *"Son of man must suffer greatly and be rejected by the elders, chief priests, and the scribes, and be killed, and rise after three days."* Until now, the Apostles believed that Jesus was not only the Messiah but presumed that an overwhelming acceptance of the people would characterize His messiahship. In their mind, Jesus was destined to be a Victorious Messiah, a Messiah endeared to the people, unanimously embraced by the people, and above all, His would be a painless messiahship. This was a shock to the Apostles. They turn to their spokesman, Peter, who tries to convince Jesus to avoid the violence and find a way to prevent it. Our Lord, knowing that

there is no other way to call the people to this new relationship with the Father... impresses upon them that it cannot be compromised in any way, at any cost. *"At this, he turned around and, looking at the disciples, rebuked Peter and said, 'Get behind me, Satan. You are thinking not as God does, but as human beings do.'"* If there was any misunderstanding about discipleship, it ended that day, at least for the Twelve.

This Gospel story is difficult to hear for most of us, perhaps because it applies as much to us as it did to the Apostles during their journey with Jesus through Caesarea Philippi. We live in a world and culture that has raised *compromising* to an art form. Because so many people cooperate in it, it becomes even more difficult for us to resist the temptation to compromise our beliefs and our living of the teachings of the Church. We need not despair, but we do need to find our direction and strength where Jesus is: Through personal prayer, spending time with each other {Community}, reflecting on the Scriptures {God's Word}, and placing ourselves in the presence of the Master through our celebration of the Eucharist and Reconciliation {Sacraments}.

Whenever we isolate these things from our lives, we isolate Our Lord from

ourselves, and that is precisely what our culture seeks to do because it is allergic to accountability. Fortunately, in a left-handed way, the Apostles also teach us something of great value: they continue their journey through Caesarea Philippi with Jesus. We do not see one or two of them begging off for the rest of the journey or promising to catch up with them later in the week at another village. Indeed, they must have been mortified, in shock and scared, but they had confidence in the strength of Our Lord which he sought to share with them.

Let us have the same confidence that when we choose to remain on the journey with Our Lord through these things {Personal Prayer, Community, God's Word, and Sacraments}, our discipleship will show in our daily lives, priorities, and choices. Pray for me, as I will pray for you!
Your brother in Christ,



Pastoral Council Elections

This September, two positions on the *Parish Pastoral Council* will need to be filled. You will have the opportunity to make your Nominations beginning the weekend of September 7th/ 8th and conclude Sunday evening [7 PM] September 15th. Nomination forms will be made available in church on those weekends. You are encouraged to reflect on potential candidates in preparation for the Nomination period. All candidates must be registered in St. Lawrence Parish; a

practicing Catholic and active in the life of our parish.

Collections: Sept 8th Parish @ \$2489, Black & Indian Missions @ \$180, Religious EDU @ \$300. Thank you.

[Altar & Rosary Fundraiser Paint & Sip Event](#), Friday Sept. 20 - 6:00pm to 8:00pm
Cost \$40.00 Contact Kathy Twomey to reserve your canvas. Cell: 610-564-7706
Email: kathyamaccarthy@gmail.com
Detailed Flyers in church vestibule.

Knights of Columbus: meeting Sept. 16 @ 7PM @ Ceader Hall.

Scripture Study - Autumn, 2024

St. Lawrence's next Scripture Study will focus on the *Book of Exodus*! The Book of Exodus is filled with Old Testament Stories which many people are familiar with. It covers the early history of Israel: their time of slavery in Egypt; God's liberating them from that slavery through the leadership of Moses; and most importantly their becoming a nation through the hardships of the Exodus and entering into a Covenant with God. You are sure to enjoy this 9-week Study, as well as the brothers and sisters with whom you will participate in during it. Basic Info:

- Tuesday mornings [10:30 AM – 12 PM] – Ceader Hall Refreshments provided

Dates: **9/10/24 > 12/3/24** Cost of materials \$30.00 {please let Fr. Benn know if this expense would prevent you from participating}.