**August 17, 2025 – Twentieth Sunday in Ordinary Time**

**Saturday – Aug 16th** – **Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Young Adults for Wisdom Using the Gifts God Bestowed on Them

**Sunday – Aug 17th – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Intentions of Barbara Itterly (MaryEllen Itterly)

**Monday – Aug 18th – Weekday –**

9AM: All Expecting Mothers and Their Child (Parish Community)

**Tuesday – Aug 19th –Weekday – St. John Eudes, Priest**

9AM**:** Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Wednesday – Aug 20th – Weekday – St. Bernard, Abbot & Doctor of the Church**

9:00AM: Peace Throughout the World (Parish Community)

**Thursday – Aug 21st – Weekday – St. Pius X, Pope**

9:00AM: Readings & Communion Distribution Only

**Friday – Aug 22nd – Weekday – The Queenship of the Blessed Virgin Mary**

9:00AM: Safe Return of Hostages in the Middles East (Parish Community)

**Saturday – Aug 23rd – Weekday – St. Rose of Lima, Virgin, BVM**

9:00AM All Students Preparing for Start of a New School Year

**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, Nikia Helfant Messier, Anthony Libasci, Louis Cortese, Faith Marie Messier, Ann Lewis, Alvin LaBar

Please Update the Above Prayers If Needed. Contact Parish Office

Church of Saint Lawrence Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor

345 Elmwood Lane Rectory: 610-749-2684

Riegelsville, PA 18077 Email: saintlawrence@verizon.net

*Website: 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! August 17, 2025

As we have noticed over the last couple of weekends, the heart of Our Lord's preaching was based on the love which the Father has for both His Son and His children. He also explains that while in this world, the only way we can love the Father back is by loving each other. Oh! That it could be that easy or painless! This weekend's Readings acknowledge that with the bark on! In the 1st Reading, we hear how the very faithful, courageous, loving, and hated Prophet Jeremiah experiences the full acid of the people of Israel, who hate him because he speaks the truth about their repeated unfaithfulness to God. They want him dead. When they finally persuaded King Zedekiah to give in to their demands, they lowered Jeremiah into an empty cistern, which may not have been holding any water, but was still wet enough for the mud at the bottom to swallow Jeremiah up slowly. Like Our Lord's death on the Cross, because he could no longer push up with his pierced feet to take a breath, Jeremiah is consigned to a slow death, exhausting himself fighting the mud and trying to keep his mouth above the rising mud.

                  St. Paul, in his Letter to the Hebrews, encourages them to persevere through the persecutions they are experiencing. He does this by referencing the long period of slander endured during Jesus' public life, as well as the many sufferings He embraced during His Passion, as an inspiration to them. Jesus' message to them is that the disciple must understand their life with a long view. The sufferings are real and terrible; yet, they must look beyond them. Look to the eternal love which the Father has for you at the end of all their struggles.

                  Finally, in a moment that must have been terrifying for His disciple, Jesus insists on something they have been in denial about. Yes! He is the Messiah, but He is a **Suffering Messiah.**

**"**There is a baptism with which I must be baptized, and how great is my anguish until it is accomplished."

All of this bespeaks the level to which the Power of Evil will go to destroy Good, which is to say, God! We must not be so naïve or dishonest as to think that fighting Evil is God's job; that He is the only one equipped to take on Satan. Fighting Evil and reversing our original sin is also the job of God's children. Do we not expect that Our Lord will always stand beside us when we are in trouble? In the light of such eternal love, why, as His children, should we not be expected to stand by our God-Father in this battle?

                  As we live each day of our lives, those days will be filled with many experiences of the Father's blessings and love for each of us. Each of those days will also include numerous moments when we will have the opportunity to deny Evil by not playing into it; when, by our choices, we can reverse where Evil wants us to go and where it wants to establish itself. My brothers and sisters, **Discipleship is for spiritual adults**. Let us do our best to stay close to Our Lord by spending time with Him in daily prayer, celebrating the Eucharist with Him and each other each Sabath, and by placing ourselves in His presence in the Sacrament of Reconciliation regularly.

Your brother in Christ,

**Collections:** Aug 10th Parish @ $3537, Catholic University @ $63, Catholic Home Missions @ $500. Thank You.

**Catholic Women’s Conference**: see handout.

 

***Who wants to become a Catholic?***

If you or someone you know is interested in becoming a Catholic, St. Lawrence Parish has just what you need: “RCIA” {*Rite of Christian Initiation of Adults*}. This is also a program for those who were baptized as a Catholic, but never received any formation in the Faith; another words, they have never received the Sacraments of Holy Eucharist or Confirmation or participated in the sacrament of Reconciliation. St. Lawrence’s RCIA program runs from **September 9, 2025 to** **March 31, 2026**. With the exception of holidays & foul weather, classes are every Tuesday evening, 7-8 PM. The classes are conducted in the Ceader Hall [beneath the church]. All materials are provided. People from all walks of life, background and education have participated in RCIA. Every candidate starts out on the same level, regardless of whether they come from an active religious background in another tradition or are a person who doesn’t know the first thing about Jesus Christ. It is very important that one participates in the entire program. Because of this, no one will be accepted into the program after **September 20, 2025.** If you have any questions, please contact Fr. Benn so that he can assist you in making this decision. You can reach him through the Parish Office [610] 749-2684 or e mail him through the Parish Office at saintlawrence@verizon.net. A brief description of what an RCIA program is all about, along with the **2025-26 schedule** of classes can be found on **orange** hand-outs in the vestibule of the church. N.B. If you know of a person who is interested in pursuing participation in St. Lawrence’s RCIA program but feel that their personal schedule won’t be able to accommodate the program’s schedule, please encourage them to contact Fr. Benn; we will do our best to work something out.