

**December 28, 2025 – The Holy Family of Jesus, Mary & Joseph**

**Saturday – Dec 27<sup>th</sup> – Vigil Mass**

5:00PM Angelo Barosi (Janice Sebastianiano)

**Sunday – Dec 28<sup>th</sup> – Mass is Streamed Live**

9:30AM Leo Zavatone (Terri Olimpo)

**Monday – Dec 29<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – Fifth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity**

9:00AM Special Intentions (Ted/Janet Achuff)

**Tuesday – Dec 30<sup>th</sup> – Weekday – Sixth Day Within the Octave of the Nativity**

9:00AM **NO Daily Mass Today**

**Wed. – Dec 31<sup>st</sup> – Weekday – Seventh Day Within the Octave of the Nativity**

9:00AM All Expecting Mothers & Their Babies In The New Year

**Thurs. – Jan 1<sup>st</sup> – Octave of Nativity – Solemnity of Mary, Mother of God**

9:30AM **Yes Mass Today:** Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Friday – Jan 2<sup>nd</sup> – Weekday – St. Basil the Great, Bishop & Doctor of the Church**

9:00AM Living/Deceased Members of St. Lawrence

**Saturday – Jan 3<sup>rd</sup> – St. John, Apostle**

9:00AM 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 Sebastianiano, 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, Emma Jones, Gerry Primavera

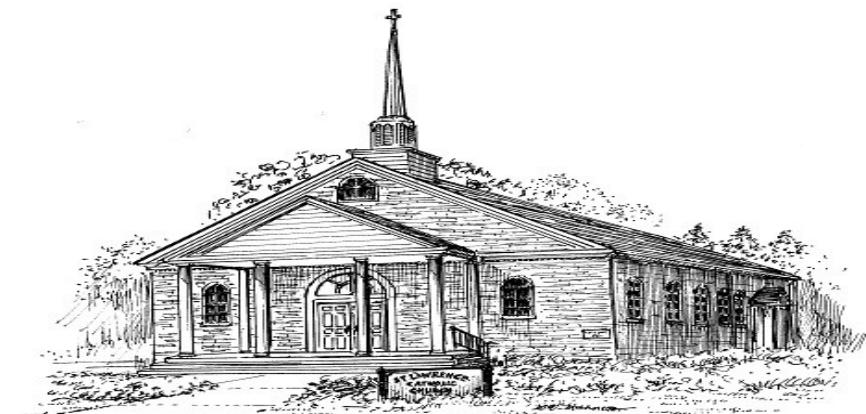
**Church of Saint Lawrence**

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**Rev. Walter J Benn, Pastor**

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**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 Friday @ 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 December 28, 2025

Today's Readings on this *Feast of the Holy Family* are filled with God's call to love those in our lives and an acknowledgement that there is a cost to loving anyone and everyone. Through these Readings, God also assures us that He will love each person whose efforts to love are characterized by *putting others before themselves*.

*.... he stores up riches who reveres his mother....he who obeys his Father brings comfort to his mother.* Speaking of elderly fathers, God says '*Even if his mind fails, be considerate of him; revile him not all the days of his life; kindness to a father will not be forgotten*',. The Prophet Sirach acknowledges how difficult it is to love our parents as they grow old. Their needs are so many, so often, and so exhausting. The daughter or son who commits themselves to another must kiss their personal freedoms, their privacy, and their own needs to be loved. Often, they must ask family and friends to join them in these sacrifices, which doesn't make them very attractive. God freely admits the cost of true and deep love. Indeed, Our Lord would show that when He surrendered to the Cross.

In St. Paul's *Letter to the Colossians*, he makes the same appeal; namely, that we owe each person in our lives an absolute effort to love them, regardless of their burdens. "*Brothers and Sisters: Put on Christ, as God's chosen ones, holy and beloved, heartfelt*

*compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness and patience, bearing with one another and forgiving one another, if one has a grievance against another; as the Lord has forgiven you, so you must forgive another.*" This call to love sounds so impressive and at the same time, so overwhelming.

Finally, St. Luke presents to us the example of St. Joseph, who embodies what happens to the person who chooses to set his personal life aside for those he loves. His old buddy, the Angel Gabriel, shows up soon after Jesus' birth, warning him that Herod plans to murder Jesus. Gabriel doesn't suggest or urge Joseph; Gabriel orders Joseph, "*Rise, take the child and his mother, flee to Egypt and stay there!*" In the middle of that night, they get up, pack up, and get out. No time to explain things to the relatives, neighbors, or friends. No time to pack some food for the journey or close their accounts at the local bank! After a long time, when Herod dies, and Joseph has finally reestablished himself, his family, and his career as a carpenter in Egypt, Gabriel returns. "*Rise, take the child and his mother and go to the land of Israel.*" With his signature quiet strength, he gets up, gathers his family, packs the donkey, and heads east on foot. Because he is a God-centered man, Joseph has the spiritual strength to trust God with their future. I'm sure that a lot of people would have thrown their hands up and screamed, "That's it. I've had enough of this stuff. We're staying."

My brothers and sisters, these experiences and acts of trust in the Father's love took place thousands of years ago. And all the people involved came to the same conclusion. Why? The central place where they learned and experienced these truths was in their family, from their parents and the extended circle of their elders; they knew them because they experienced them there. God is Good! God is Love! God has been and is Faithful! It is only in a faith- and love-filled home that this can be learned and embraced. You would not be here in our church, or bothering to read this reflection, if someone in your life had not inspired you and loved you enough to share their beliefs and to extend to you the experience of those beliefs. You and I benefited from their lived experiences. As adults, I encourage you not to be shy about sharing your beliefs about our loving God, and, like St. Joseph, to take up the responsibilities that come with being loved; namely, to share them and to act on them.

Your brother in Christ,



**Collections:** December 21 + Christmas will report January 4 2026 Parish. Thank You.

**Need Your Help If You Can:** we are in need of Altar Servers, Eucharistic Ministers & Lectors. Advise Fr. Benn. Thank you!!



**Altar Rosary Society:** annual *Christmas Dinner* @ Springtown Inn, January 9 2026. Sign-up sheets in vestibule.

**Regina Academy Open House:** at St. John's, January 14, 2026 8:30AM – 10:30AM, PreK through Grade 8. Refreshments served. Check it out:>



**Religious Education Financial Assistance:** forms available in vestibule for Fall 2025 & Spring 2026. Provided by the Ceader Trust Trustees. Time sensitive, act now. Deadline March 1 2026.

**Weekly Contribution Envelopes 2026:** are available for pick up in church. Please make the time to do so. Envelopes not picked up by February 1 will be discarded and removed from the 2027 envelope list. No changes can be made to the 2026 product which was completed in October 2025.